



Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

Takeshita Leaves for No's Inauguration

*OW240631 Tokyo KYODO in English 0616 GMT
24 Feb 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita left Tokyo Wednesday afternoon for a two-day visit to Seoul to attend inaugural ceremonies for new South Korean President No Tae-u.

It is Takeshita's first visit to South Korea since he took office last November.

After the inauguration to be held Thursday morning, Takeshita and No will have their first summit meeting at the Blue House presidential mansion.

During a session due to last for about an hour, the two leaders are expected to talk about ways to build up cooperative relations between Japan and South Korea as neighboring countries and measures to ensure the success of the Seoul Olympic games this fall, according to Japanese Government sources.

Takeshita will also pay a courtesy call on the outgoing president, Chon Tu-hwan, who will be the first South Korean top executive to step down in a peaceful transfer of power, at his private residence.

In addition he will meet with new Prime Minister Yi Hyon-chae and U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker, the sources said.

Some 280 delegates from 88 countries will attend the ceremony for No, who was elected last December, according to a South Korean preparatory committee.

Government Asks About Seamen Held in DPRK

*OW231425 Tokyo KYODO in English 1200 GMT
23 Feb 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 23 KYODO—The Japanese Government has inquired through a third country about the health condition of two Japanese detained in North Korea on spy charges, government sources said Tuesday.

The sources said the inquiries were made as North Korea's Red Cross had told its Japanese counterpart that there is no improvement in the health condition of the two seamen.

Isamu Beniko, 57, captain of the freezer ship "No. 18 Fujisan Maru", and Yoshio Kuriura, 56, its chief engineer, have been in a North Korean jail since 1983.

The sources did not disclose what route the government used to communicate with North Korea but diplomatic sources said the third country is likely China.

The two Japanese were sentenced by a North Korean court to 15 years hard labor on espionage charges last December.

Group Urges Boycott of South African Goods

*OW240417 Tokyo KYODO in English 0212 GMT
24 Feb 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—A Japanese civic group has decided to step up a campaign to boycott goods from South Africa in protest against that nation's apartheid policy, a spokesman said Wednesday.

The Japan Antiapartheid Committee (JAAC) is organizing regional groups nationwide to distribute 2,000 posters to labor unions, human rights groups, consumer organizations and the public next month as part of its escalating consumer campaign, he said.

The protest group, which began its campaign last month, said some department stores and other retailing outlets have responded to the appeal by withdrawing South African products from their shops.

The targets of the current campaign center on four types of South African imports: apple juice, canned fruit, wine and diamonds which comprise some of the more popular South African consumer goods sold in Japan.

The JAAC spokesman said the group decided to launch the consumer campaign because Japanese importers had ignored its request to boycott South African goods.

The sale of apple juice alone has totaled 400 million yen over the past four years, the group said.

Since the start of the campaign, about 10 supermarkets and department stores in the Kansai area in western Japan have removed South African-made products from their shelves, the spokesman said.

The campaign came amid growing international pressure for Japan to stop its burgeoning trade with South Africa.

In Washington, the congressional Black Caucus sent a letter to Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, expressing "grave concern" over Japan's South Africa trade.

Japan emerged as South Africa's trading partner last year, with bilateral trade amounting to 4.27 billion dollars, up 19 percent from the 1986 figure.

Australia To Study Futuristic City Project

*OW221121 Tokyo KYODO in English 0914 GMT
22 Feb 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 22 KYODO—Japan and Australia have agreed to start feasibility studies soon on a project to jointly create a futuristic multifunction city in Australia, officials at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Monday.

The studies will be conducted by a joint committee to be created soon, with representatives of the two governments and private enterprises, mainly high-tech businesses, as members.

The project aims for Japan and Australia to cooperate in constructing a multifunctional "city of the future" which would present new ideas for industry and life in the 21st century while serving as a center for cultural and technological exchange in the Pacific. The projected city will have research facilities for high-tech projects, such as electronics and biotechnology, and cultural and economic exchange facilities. It would also have resorts. The projected city is called "multifunction polis" (MFP).

The project surfaced when Hajime Tamura, minister of international trade and industry, made a proposal at a Japan-Australia ministerial meeting in January 1987 in Canberra.

According to the officials, if everything goes well, such a city, also fitted with resort facilities and a population of as many as 100,000, would be born in five years.

The Tamura proposal drew the attention of the Australian Government. Working-level officials of the two governments have since studied the proposal.

More than 50 major Japanese enterprises, including Hitachi Ltd., NEC Corp. and Nippon Steel Corp., have created a study committee on the project.

According to the officials, the start of feasibility studies on the project was agreed on earlier in the month by senior officials of the two governments. In talks, the Japanese Government was represented by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. On behalf of Australia, Neville Stevens, deputy secretary of the Australian Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce, attended the meeting.

The joint feasibility study committee to be created will be based in Australia. It will choose appropriate sites for high-tech research laboratories, and draw up a skeleton of cultural and economic exchange facilities over a period of one year.

Takeshita Urged To Halt Okinawa Airport Plan
OW240639 Tokyo KYODO in English 0607 GMT
24 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—A former head of the Environment Agency and three leading opposition politicians urged Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita on Wednesday to intervene to stop the building of an airport which they say could destroy a rare coral reef in Okinawa.

In a letter to Takeshita the Diet members asked the Japanese Government to "respect" a resolution passed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) earlier this month.

The resolution asks Japan to cancel plans for a new airport near Shiraho Reef off Ishigaki Island, 440 kilometers south of Okinawa Island.

The general meeting of the Swiss-based IUCN also called on Japan to protect the natural treasure, which contains the world's oldest known colonies of blue coral, the letter said.

The letter was signed by Hyosuke Kujiraoka, a leading Liberal Democratic Party member of the lower house and former director general of the Environment Agency, Japan Socialist Party (JSP) Chairwoman Takako Doi, Hideo Den, former head of Shaminren, and Sukio Iwatare, a JSP member of the lower house.

"Japan is a great economic power, but on wildlife conservation and environmental protection, Japan is a frequent target of world criticism," the letter said.

As a nation aiming to become an "internationalized country" the Japanese Government should review the airport plan, it added.

A court in Naha, the capital of Okinawa Prefecture, ruled Tuesday that the construction project does not violate fishing rights of a group of 30 anti-airport members of a fishing cooperative.

Okinawa Prefecture has said it wants to start construction of the island's second airport in August. It is currently preparing an environmental assessment to evaluate the effects of a 2,000-meter runway, shortened from 2,500 meters to keep it further from the coral.

Local authorities want the controversial airport built because they believe it would stimulate the local economy by enabling tourists to fly there directly from Tokyo and Osaka.

The IUCN, an organization of governmental and non-governmental environmentalists and conservation groups from 117 nations, sponsored a survey of Shiraho Reef last year.

Central Bank Governor Sees Dollar Stability
OW240333 Tokyo KYODO in English 0315 GMT
24 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Satoshi Sumita said Wednesday he does not think the U.S. dollar's credibility as a key currency has been damaged seriously.

Sumita made the statement to clarify the meaning of remarks on foreign exchange rates he made at a meeting of the House of Representatives' Budget Committee Tuesday.

He told the Tuesday session of the committee that the recent decline in the dollar's value cannot be described as a plunge. The remark was taken in the Tokyo foreign exchange market as indicating that the U.S. currency still has room for depreciation.

In reply to questions on the issue put by an opposition party member, Sumita said such words as a plunge or a nosedive is used (in the international financial community) only when the dollar's function as a key international currency is in jeopardy.

The central bank governor also said that the dollar's value is expected to stabilize in the future as the Japan-U.S. trade imbalance is improving.

Legislation Sought To Prevent Insider Trading
OW240407 Tokyo KYODO in English 0302 GMT
24 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—A government advisory panel recommended Wednesday that the government revise the Securities and Exchange Law to prevent so-called insider transactions and impose penalties for violations of the proposed revisions.

The Finance Ministry will shortly begin drafting such revisions based on the panel's recommendations which were approved at a plenary session of the Securities and Exchange Council, ministry officials said.

The ministry plans to submit the revised bill to the current Diet session, probably in early March, the officials said.

However, the revision will not take effect until the summer of 1989 because of the punitive provision, which requires a one-year notice before it becomes enforceable, the officials said.

The penalties will cover various professions including securities firms employees, government officials and politicians, they said.

The recommendation urged the establishment of the provision not only to prohibit insider trading but to also give the ministry further power to oversee the management of information by securities houses and securities exchanges, the officials said.

Insider trading is a securities deal initiated by people who have inside information about corporate developments and performance that have not been made public, and is considered an unfair trading practice, they said.

The proposed revision defines inside information as information that influences investors' judgment in the purchase or sale of securities of individual firms, they said.

The revision would cover such areas as mergers and acquisitions, upcoming flotations of stocks and bonds, development of new products and asset and debt positions, the officials said.

The recommendation said the provision will be applied to three types of people—insiders, quasi-insiders and recipients of inside information.

The insider category will include executives, employees and major shareholders of stock issuing firms. Quasi-insiders will include those who could gain easier access to inside information of stock issuing firms through either a contract with the firms or by exercising legal authority over them, it said.

The officials said the quasi-insider category will cast a net over securities houses, banks, lawyers for the firms, government officials and politicians.

North Korea

Gen Yi Addresses 23 February MAC Meeting
SK240715 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0500 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The 441st MAC meeting was held yesterday in Panmunjom upon the request of our side.

As is already known, on 10 February, our side demanded of the U.S. side that a MAC meeting be held at 1100 on 15 February 1988. Because of the unjust maneuvers of the U.S. side, however, the 441st MAC meeting was delayed no fewer than 8 days.

At the meeting, Major General Yi Tae-ho, senior member of our side, stated that, in defiance of strong protests and denunciation by our people and peace-loving people around the world, the U.S. imperialist aggressors are nonetheless waging the criminal "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise.

He continued: As is already widely known to the world, we have made every possible sincere effort to bring an end to military confrontation between the North and the South and to alleviate tension between them.

At the 431st MAC meeting held on 6 November 1985, our side proposed that both sides restrict large-scale military exercises. The government of the Republic announced that, on its own initiative, it would not conduct large-scale exercises after 1 February 1986. Since then, we have successively advanced proposals for talks between the military authorities and for turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free peace zone. Last

year, we put forth a proposal for holding multinational disarmament talks for a phased arms reduction and took the bold measure of unilaterally reducing military forces by 100,000.

In particular, we are making every sincere effort to turn this year's situation on the Korean peninsula, which the people of the world are watching, in favor of peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

Some time ago we put forth a proposal for holding a North-South joint conference to discuss discontinuing large-scale military exercises including the "Team Spirit" military exercise, arranging multinational disarmament talks, and other pending issues, and sent a letter containing specific details to the South Korean side. This was also a clear expression of these sincere efforts.

However, the U.S. imperialist aggressors have answered our peaceful proposals and sincere efforts by daring to wage the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise. This is a grave threat to peace in Korea and a vicious challenge to our peace proposal.

The "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise now being conducted in South Korea and surrounding areas is an extremely dangerous full-scale war exercise and nuclear war exercise staged at the same time that the South Korean military fascist clique is frantically kicking up a commotion to smear the Republic under the manipulation of the U.S. imperialists. This is a heinous provocative maneuver designed to lead the tense situation on the Korean peninsula almost to the brink of war, thus leading the world into the calamity of a thermonuclear war.

To alleviate tension and seek peace is the trend of the times. However, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean military fascist clique are committing the provocative "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise that gravely threatens peace in Korea and around the world, while pursuing the policy of aggression and war. This shows that the U.S. side is not interested in peace in Korea and the alleviation of tension there, but only pursues the policy of confrontation and war.

Noting that the South Korean puppet army has committed the provocative acts of firing large-caliber machinegun rounds at the guardpost on our side from their guardpost about 1,200 meters southwest of Military Demarcation Line [MDL] marker No. 0697 at around 0820 on 19 February; that, from around 1055 the following day, dozens of its troops, carrying large-caliber machineguns and automatic weapons, took firing positions after again taking positions at the same location; and that prior to this, they fabricated and raved about the false incident of our side firing machinegun rounds from the guardpost of our side near MDL Marker No 0576 at around 1845 on 17 February, the senior member

of our side stressed that this shows how frenziedly and desperately the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean military fascist clique are seeking to artificially aggravate tension and confrontation.

He noted that the U.S. side has brought the situation to the brink of a war by conducting the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise after bringing into South Korea massive armed forces of aggression from the U.S. mainland and the Pacific region and called this a direct betrayal of the preamble and paragraph 12 of the Korean Armistice Agreement that provide for ensuring complete cessation of hostilities and all armed acts in Korea, and a wanton violation of subparagraphs c and d of paragraph 13 of the Korean Armistice Agreement that provide for ensuring cessation of the introduction into Korea of reinforcing military personnel, combat aircraft, armored vehicles, weapons, and ammunition.

After saying this, he termed such a war exercise commotion by the U.S. imperialists as an unforgivable challenge to our peace proposal, a flagrant violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement, and a grave criminal act that leads the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war. He resolutely protested and denounced this and strongly demanded of the U.S. side that it immediately stop the aggressive "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise.

However, the U.S. side made a foolish attempt to conceal the aggressive and dangerous nature of the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise instead of ensuring implementation of our just demands and presented a preposterous sophism as if this exercise is annual defensive training. Stressing that the U.S. imperialists' remarks about annual defensive training and so forth while waging an aggressive war exercise are a shameless and ridiculous trick, the senior member of our side asked why they conduct a military exercise in South Korea, which is tens of thousands of ri away from their own country, mobilizing hundreds of thousands of troops, instead of staging training to defend their own country and their own land if this exercise is really designed for defense. He then noted that this exercise cannot be otherwise explained than as pursuing an aggressive aim against us.

Stressing that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise is an aggressive war exercise designed to provoke a new nuclear war in Korea according to the global strategy of the United States, he stated: It is a fact well known to the world that the U.S. imperialists long ago designated South Korea as a strategic military base for invading the northern half of the republic and many other Asian nations. Proceeding from their aim to realize this ambition for conquering the world, the U.S. imperialists worked out a nuclear war plan in Korea and dragged various nuclear weapons into South Korea even 30 years ago. Thus, more than 1,000 various types of nuclear weapons from small nuclear bombs to nuclear missiles and neutron bombs are today deployed in South Korea. As a result, South Korea has been reduced to a

comprehensive nuclear base and the largest nuclear offensive base in the Far East, where more than half of all nuclear weapons deployed in the Far East region are concentrated.

The "Team Spirit" joint military exercise is a practical nuclear war exercise designed to perfect on the spot the method of using various nuclear weapons that the United States have dragged into South Korea to carry out its global strategy.

Thus, the U.S. imperialists have deployed Lance missiles near the MDL since the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise in 1978 and have staged firing exercises that simulate nuclear attacks on selected areas in the northern half of the republic. In recent years, they have mobilized F-16 and F-15 fighter bombers in these exercises and staged an exercise of dropping nuclear bombs in places similar to the northern half of the republic. They even staged an exercise using special nuclear destruction bombs that simulate blowing up our major facilities and plants.

In particular, even the E-4b nuclear war command aircraft was mobilized in the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise last year. This clearly proves that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise is offensive training designed to invade us.

Even U.S. imperialist military leaders have recognized this. Livsey, former commander of the U.S. forces in South Korea, stated on 7 April last year, when the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise had reached its peak, that the U.S. troops were attacking the heart of the North.

Appearing at the site of the "Team Spirit" exercise, the South Korean ruler raved that if the exercise was in the past a passive exercise designed for defense, the ongoing exercise had become active, with offensive operations as its basis, thus revealing more clearly the U.S. imperialists' aggressive attempt.

This being the case, how can they say that "Team Spirit" is annual defensive training designed to cope with someone else's threat?

The Armistice Agreement is for a cease-fire and does not ensure durable peace. Therefore, we have put forth the proposal for turning the Armistice Agreement into a peace agreement to prevent the danger of a nuclear war and ensure a durable peace. We have also made a realistic proposal to adopt a nonaggression declaration so that each side makes a definite promise not to invade the other and to ensure such a promise in such a way as to organize the Neutral Nations Supervisory Army, enhancing the authority of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission.

However, the U.S. imperialists have not accepted even this proposal. If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets truly feel the threat of someone else's

invasion and if they truly fear such a threat, there can be no reason whatsoever that they cannot respond to the proposal to conclude a nonaggression declaration and a peace agreement.

This also serves as evidence that remarks by the U.S. side that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise is necessary for so-called defense are false.

The senior member of our side emphatically stated that the U.S. imperialists' remarks that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise is an annual defense training exercise and so forth, which have been made whenever they stage this exercise, are nothing but a sophism designed to conceal the aggressive aim which is to launch a surprise attack on us at any moment while pretending they are staging military training after dulling our vigilance and after having dragged in and deployed numerous armed forces of aggression and combat equipment.

He stressed that no matter how frantically the U.S. imperialists may attempt to conceal the aggressive nature of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, they can never conceal the stern reality that this war exercise is an extremely adventurous annual nuclear war exercise designed to attack the northern half of the republic.

He continued: Because of the U.S. imperialists' reckless nuclear war commotion, the situation in our country has been strained to an extreme point and a dangerous situation where war may break out at any moment is today being created in our country.

The repeated military clashes and political confrontation between the two sides have today reached an extreme point. If a war exercise is staged in addition to this by mobilizing hundreds of thousands of troops and the most modern war equipment, how would the situation turn? This will lead the current situation on the Korean peninsula, in which a war may break out at any moment, to a more dangerous stage and will bring about a grave situation in which a full-scale clash may be touched off even by a minor incident.

Furthermore, under the circumstances in which South Korea has become the largest forward nuclear base in the Far East filled with U.S. nuclear weapons and the U.S. imperialist aggressors have long ago worked out a nuclear war plan, such a war could be expanded into a nuclear war which would not remain only in Korea, but could be expanded into a global thermonuclear war.

The responsibility for reducing the situation on the Korean peninsula to such a condition totally rests with the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets and responsibility for easing such a situation also rests with the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets.

Under conditions in which no one knows when the full-scale nuclear offensive operation exercise that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are

going to stage will turn into a real war, we cannot leave ourselves in a defenseless condition, but are forced to take the necessary military countermeasures.

In conclusion, the senior member of our side stressed that if the U.S. imperialists do not cancel the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, our people and the soldiers of our People's Army will strongly cope with such a situation with lofty vigilance and will strike a blow at any aggressive act and not tolerate it. He sternly warned that the U.S. imperialists should correctly see the firm will of our people and the soldiers of our People's Army to safeguard the nation's dignity and to defend their fatherland, even at the risk of their lives, and should not forget the historic lesson on how miserable has been the end for warmongers who were fond of playing with fire.

WPK Central Committee Party Member Slogans
SK231118 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2200 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Slogans for all WPK members adopted at the meeting of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee on 20 February—read by announcers]

[Text] The slogans of the WPK Central Committee in honor of the 40th anniversary of the DPRK founding: Long live the respected and beloved leader of our party and people Comrade Kim Il-song, the founder and leader of the DPRK!

Long live the glorious WPK, the organizer and promoter of all victories of the Korean people!

Long live the DPRK, the glorious fatherland!

All party members and working people: Let us usher in the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic with high political zeal and shining successes in labor!

Let us bring about great upsurges in the revolution and construction and glorify the 40th anniversary of the Republic as a grand festival of victors!

The DPRK is the great gain that Korean communists and patriotic people have achieved by blood through a long and arduous struggle under the leadership of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Let us resolutely defend and brilliantly inherit and develop the glorious anti-Japanese revolutionary tradition, the historic root and permanent bedrock of the DPRK!

Glory to those revolutionaries and patriots who sacrificed their noble lives for the freedom and liberation of the fatherland, for the founding of the Republic, and for its consolidation and development!

The *chuche* idea is the great leading ideology of the revolution and construction, and the banner of national prosperity and growth and of the victory of socialism and communism!

Long live the great *chuche* idea!

Let us thoroughly embody the *chuche* idea and vigorously accelerate the cause of *chuche*ization of the entire society!

Let us vigorously move forward toward the victory of the *chuche* revolutionary cause, the cause of socialism and communism!

Let us firmly establish the main force [*chuche*] in the revolution and construction and let us live in our own style!

Let us thoroughly implement the revolutionary line of independence, self-reliance, and self-defense in all areas of state activities!

Let us firmly establish the revolutionary spirit of taking the revolutionary ideology of our party as the only belief and thinking and acting according to its demands!

The united body of the party and the people firmly rallied around the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is an everlasting sociopolitical organic body, and the strong main force of our revolution.

Long live the single-minded unity of the entire party, all the people, and the entire Army with the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song at the center!

Let us strengthen the unity and cohesion of our revolutionary ranks by all means by purely inheriting and developing the shining tradition of the blood unity of the leader, the party, and the masses and by highly displaying the spirit of revolutionary duties and comradeship!

The leadership of our party is a firm guarantee for the prosperity and growth of the Republic and for the victory of the *chuche* revolutionary cause!

With firm conviction that we can occupy any fortress, as long as we have the leadership of the party, let us vigorously advance along the single path of victory pointed by the party!

Let us firmly establish a revolutionary order and discipline of thinking as one according to the idea and will of the party and acting as one under the guidance of the party!

Let us establish a revolutionary party spirit in the entire party and further enhance the combat capabilities and leading role of the party!

All party members: With a lofty organizational sense, thoroughly establish the spirit of revolutionary party life and work and enhance your leading roles in the revolution and construction!

Long live the socialist system of our country!

Let us firmly protect and defend and further strengthen and develop the most superior socialist system of our country under which the masses of the working people enjoy independent and creative lives to their hearts' content with everlasting sociopolitical lives!

Let us thoroughly embody the principle of collectivism in all areas according to the nature of the socialist system!

Let us further strengthen the revolutionary power of the workers and farmers, the great gain of our revolution!

Let us further enhance the function and role of the regime of the people, the protector and accomplisher of the policy of our party and the tool for socialist and communist construction!

Let us thoroughly fulfill the demand of the socialist constitution in all areas of the state and in social lives!

Accelerating the complete victory of socialism by vigorously accelerating the revolution and construction in the northern half of the Republic is the most important task of struggle facing our party and people.

All party members and working people: The line and policy of our party are the strategy and tactics of our revolution to embody the *chuche* idea, and the most accurate guideline that firmly guarantees the victory of the socialist and communist cause.

Let all of us march forward for the complete victory of socialism along the road indicated by the party!

The three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—are the general line of our party in socialist and communist construction; long live the line of the three revolutions!

Let us occupy ahead of schedule ideological and material fortresses by accelerating the three revolutions!

Let us actively accelerate revolutionization and working classification of the entire society!

Completely realizing the socialist rural theses in the near future is the mature requirement of our revolution and the firm will of our party.

Long live the socialist rural theses of our country, the great program for socialist rural construction!

Let us eliminate the distinction between urban and rural areas and the class distinction between the working class and farmers, and let us brilliantly achieve the historic cause of eliminating class by vigorously waging the struggle to realize the great rural theses!

For all of the people to firmly arm themselves politically and ideologically is precisely the preferential requirements to strengthen cohesion and unity of the party and the popular masses and to effect a new revolutionary upsurge in socialist construction.

All party members and working people: Let us firmly prepare to become communist revolutionaries of *chuche* type who are infinitely loyal to the party and the leader by firmly establishing a revolutionary outlook on the leader!

Let us become indomitable revolutionary fighters who invariably trust and follow the party and who share their destinies with the party under all circumstances, as the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters who were infinitely loyal to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song!

Let us firmly and resolutely adhere to the working class stand and the revolutionary principles and let us ensure that all sectors of social life seethe with the revolutionary spirit of the working class!

Let us cherish deep in our hearts the great national pride and honor of carrying out the revolution under the leadership of the party!

Let us highly display the Korean nation's spirit of fervently loving and treasuring the nation!

Let us further bring our fatherland to bloom as a socialist paradise with the fervent heart of loving the country!

Let us highly display the strong and tough revolutionary spirit of breaking through all manner of difficulties and carrying out assigned revolutionary tasks by one's own strength by demonstrating the revolutionary spirit of Mt Paektu, the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude!

Let us effect repeated innovation and repeated advance with firm faith in certain victory and revolutionary optimism while doing away with passivism, conservatism, slackness, and stalemate!

Let all of us work and live militantly in conformity with the demands of the era of carrying out the revolution!

Production, study, life, all in the manner of the anti-Japanese guerrillas!

Fulfilling the Third 7-Year Plan ahead of schedule is the rewarding struggle not only of firmly deepening the material and technological foundation for the complete victory of socialism, but also of epochally improving the people's living.

All party members and working people: Let us make the all-out march to fulfill the Third 7-Year Plan ahead of schedule with firm faith in the brilliant prospects toward the future!

This year is a very important year in fulfilling the Third 7-Year Plan. Let the entire party, the entire country, and all the people rise up and fulfill this year's national economic plan ahead of schedule!

The cardinal task in socialist economic construction this year is to more vigorously accelerate the grand construction march that has already been embarked upon. The grand construction battle is a tremendous large-scale task to expedite the complete victory of socialism and to provide prosperity and happiness for our descendants.

Let us vigorously accelerate the grand construction march with the spirit of a speedy battle joined to the *chollima*!

Let us create a new miracle in the grand construction march with the spirit of having built a firm economic foundation above the ashes during the postwar period by dashing on *chollima* and with the fighting spirit of having built the epochal, large-scale lockgate on rough sea by waging a speedy battle!

Let all of us glorify the September festival with proud success in the grand construction by vigorously waging the battle of loyalty!

The preferential task in today's grand construction march is precisely the construction of the Suncheon Vinalon Complex. Construction of the Suncheon Vinalon Complex is a lifeline in resolving the food, clothing, housing of the people.

Builders of the Suncheon Vinalon Complex: Demonstrate once again the might of *chuche* Korea by completing the project of realizing the production capacity of 100,000 tons of vinalon before the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic and by creating the Suncheon vinalon speed—a new speed—cherishing great pride in and the sense of responsibility for being in charge of construction of the facility put forth as a most important task by our party!

Make the land of Suncheon pour out at an early date various chemical products including vinalon, nitrogen fertilizer, and protein feed!

Builders of the Sariwon Potash Fertilizer Complex: Vigorously push ahead with construction of the Sariwon Potash Fertilizer Complex, which will open a wide prospect for the development of the *chuche*-oriented potash fertilizer industry and light metallurgy industry!

Accelerating construction of Kwangbok Street and major facilities of Pyongyang is a glorious task for building Pyongyang, the capital of the revolution, to be a more splendid, more majestic, and more modern city and for providing the people with a more civilized culture.

Builders of the Kwangbok Street: Upholding the profound idea for construction of the capital city, expedite the construction to complete ahead of schedule and ensure the quality of buildings at the highest level by effecting constant innovations in the struggle to build monumental creations of the era of the Workers Party!

Let us vigorously push ahead with construction work to expand and strengthen the production and technological foundation of the national economy!

Builders of power stations: Create power production capacity of more than 1.2 million kva by completing the projects of the Taechon Power Station, the Wiwon power plant, and the Sunchon thermal power plant and third-phase construction of the Sodusu Power Station, which are presently under way, within the first half of the year, and register continuous innovations in the construction of new power plants!

Builders of mines: Develop more new mines by cultivating and expanding large-scale mines with great deposits!

Builders of metallurgical bases: Push ahead continuously with construction work to expand and strengthen the metallurgical bases by completing second-phase expansion of the Kim Chaek Iron Complex within the first quarter! Actively carry out the project of cultivating and expanding the Musan Mine Complex, a large-scale iron and ore production base!

Land reclamation workers: Expand the lands of the fatherland by vigorously waging land reclamation work with courage and dauntlessness fostered by the party!

All builders: Become the creators of exploits and miracles in the struggle to build magnificent creations that will display the dignity of chuche Korea!

Heroic soldier-builders: Our People's Army is the defender of the fatherland and creator of the people's happiness. Just as you have registered immortal exploits in the nation's history by helping the people with restoration work and construction, demonstrate your heroic spirit at all construction sites in building monumental creations in the eighties! Let the entire nation, all the people, and the entire Army vigorously support the construction of major facilities!

The key industries are the pillars of a self-reliant economy. We should effect innovations in the domains of key industries to develop the nation's economy and successfully ensure the grand construction march. The foundation of the self-reliant key industries we have built under the leadership of the party and the leader by valuing even minutes and seconds is mighty. If we highly demonstrate the potential of such a foundation, we can carry out any difficult task.

Party members and workers in the domain of key industries: Reliably ensure the grand construction march by normalizing production at a high level and mobilizing all reserves and potential! Let all thermal power stations

and hydraulic power stations smoothly guarantee the increasing demand for power in the national economy by fully operating generation facilities!

Coal production is a main offensive front toward which strength should be directed this year. Constantly increase coal production by giving priority to stripping and tunneling and widely accepting new technology and advanced mining methods!

Smoothly meet the demand for iron and steel in grand construction projects by fully operating the facilities of producing iron, steel, and rolled steel and increasing production of iron and steel, cherishing a sense of ardent loyalty!

Increase further production of nonferrous metals by accelerating cultivation and expansion work of prospective mines and by fully operating all smelteries!

The technological revolution is the revolution of machines. Let the blaze of extensive technological reform burst into flames in all domains of the national economy by expanding the production capability of the machine industry and effecting a great innovation in producing mechanical facilities!

Victoriously ensure the grand construction march by qualitatively producing in a timely manner the facilities for major plants, including the Sunchon Vinalon Complex and the Sariwon Postash Fertilizer Complex!

Develop more promptly the electronic and automation industries in conformity with the demands of the technological revolution!

Develop in a more diversified manner the chuche-oriented chemical industry that uses the limestone and anthracite abundant in our country as raw material!

Decisively increase the production of various chemical products, including chemical fibers and synthetic resin, by fully operating existing chemical plants and producing more fertilizer and agricultural medicines!

The grand construction march demands more construction materials. Supply more of the various construction materials, including cement, to sites of socialist construction by accelerating the project of increasing the production capability of cement plants and effectively using production facilities for all construction materials!

The forestry sector: Increase the production of logs, including timber, by developing more new forests!

We should decisively increase transportation capability by directing great strength to railway transport to successfully ensure grand construction and enable transportation to comply with increasing production.

Party members and workers in the railway transportation sector: Vigorously accelerate the work of introducing heavy-duty trains by expeditiously completing electrification of railways and by producing many (high-speed) electric locomotives and 100-ton class freight cars!

Transport more freight to the sites of socialist construction by improving organizational work and command of transport, intensifying disciplines, and actively waging the 5.18 no-accident, on-time, traction-standard-surpassing movement!

Continuously and thoroughly implement the three transportation policies and the threefold transport system! Further develop maritime and river transport while strengthening truck transport!

Party members and workers of the communications sector: Meet more smoothly the increasing demands in communications by accelerating modernization of communications means!

More smoothly resolving the issue of the people's food, clothing, and shelter is one of the most important tasks put forth by our party. Let us all vigorously wage the struggle to more smoothly resolve the issue of the people's food, clothing, and shelter!

Rice is communism. Let us effect a new revolutionary upsurge in agricultural production by mobilizing the entire party, the entire nation, and all the people and by making them thoroughly implement the party's agriculture-first-policy!

Functionaries of the rural economic sector and agricultural workers: Greet the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic with bumper crops by carrying out all farming work in a scientific and technical manner in conformity with the demands of the *chuche* agricultural method, a most scientific agricultural method that corresponds to the situation of our country!

Highly demonstrate the attitude worthy of masters in agricultural work and creative zeal under the slogan: "The fields of cooperative farms are my fields!"

Epochally increase production of grain and produce more meat, eggs, fruit, and cocoons! Actively struggle to accomplish at an early date the four major technological revolutionary tasks in rural economy put forth by the party! More perfectly complete irrigation work by accelerating construction of dry field sprinkler irrigation systems as a mass movement!

Promptly realize the industrialization and modernization of agriculture by expanding the success of electrification and by accomplishing overall mechanization and chemicalization!

Discover more new land, increase cultivated fields, and use the land more effectively by properly protecting it!

Carry out the struggle to increase soil fertility as a mass movement by producing a large quantity of (?compost) and mobilizing all resources and potentials!

All party members and workers: Produce more of a variety of farming materials including tractors, trucks, agricultural machines and parts and chemical fertilizers to send them to farms and give vigorous support to farms materially, technologically, and with man power!

Party members and workers in the domain of fisheries: Catch more fish by establishing scientific fish-catching system and by waging an active fish-catching struggle! A factor for epochally increasing the marine products is to wage on a large scale seashore breeding. Increase the struggle to develop seashore breeding by building more seashore nurseries in the east and west seas!

Party members and workers in the light industry sector: Raise the flames of the light industry revolution higher! Produce many types of good quality industrial products and make each store overflow with various kinds of people's consumer goods!

Produce a large quantity of various good-quality fabrics and knitted goods by developing the technology of processing vinalon and *chuche*-oriented fabrics! Increase on a large scale various daily necessities including various tasty and nutritious processed foods, household furnishings, and cultural supplies!

Produce more inexpensive and good-quality people's consumer goods by modernizing the local industrial plants and consolidating your own base of raw materials! Let the plants and enterprises produce abundant consumer goods by forming more workshops and workteams for daily necessities and by broadly introducing the 3 August consumer goods production (?system)!

Let us make our cities and farms more modern by building dwellings on a large scale, including silicate brick dwellings, in cities, counties, towns and *ris* [lowest administration unit]!

Functionaries in the domain of service to the people: Register a new turning point in the work of providing goods, public food supply work, and service cherishing the lofty spirit of service!

Functionaries and workers in the trade and external economy sector: Make better contributions to socialist economic construction and to the improvement of the people's living standards by thoroughly implementing our party's external economic policy and accomplishing the goals of trade without fail! Let us register a new turning point in the production of export goods by upholding the party's policy for external trade development!

Our era is the era of science and technology. The most important issue in carrying out the Third 7-year Plan is to develop science and technology and to vigorously wage the technological reform of the national economy. Let us all rise vigorously in the struggle to rapidly develop all domains by deeply realizing that the development of science and technology is the important issue related to the destiny of the nation and to the future of the people!

What is important today in developing science and technology is to concentrate strength on developing important scientific domains including electronic engineering, biology, thermal engineering and chemistry.

Scientists and technicians: The party has great expectations of our scientists and technicians and calls for them to fully display the spirit of patriotic sacrifice and creative positivity and to effect a decisive turn in the development of science and technology.

Place great emphasis on rapidly developing electronic engineering, automation engineering, and mechanical engineering, and on accelerating the overall mechanization, automation, robotization, and computerization in production!

Effect a new turn in developing biology and chemistry and actively contribute to improving the people's standard of living!

Actively contribute to solving the fuel and energy problems properly by solving the scientific and technological problems in utilizing local fuel resources, including metaanthracite [*chomuyontan*] and low calorie coal, and in improving various thermal facilities!

Devote all your wisdom and energy to the research work to successfully solve the scientific and technological problems on achieving self-reliance in scientific research work and in achieving the chucheization, modernization, and scientization of the people's economy and to develop new scientific areas and introduce new scientific and technological achievements!

Intensify joint research between the scientific research organs and colleges and highly display the spirit of collectivism in scientific research work!

Enhance social interest in scientific research work and help the research work of scientists and technicians by all means!

Drastically enhance the overall level of technology and equipment and bring production on a high scientific stage by fulfilling the scientific and technological development plan without fail and by introducing new technology broadly in all sectors of the people's economy!

Let the flames of the technological revolution furiously rise at the sites of great construction and at all other units by strengthening creative cooperation between the scientists and technicians and production workers and by vigorously carrying out the mass technological innovation campaign!

Further intensify the activities of technological innovation shock brigades in all sectors and units of the people's economy!

Economic guidance and industrial management should be properly conducted to highly display the revolutionary zeal and creative positivity and develop the economy rapidly.

Let us thoroughly protect and implement the most superior Taean work system, the new farm guidance system, and the scientific planning system!

Effect ceaseless upsurges in production and construction by strengthening the collective guidance of the party committees and implementing the mass line according to the demands of the Taean work system!

Today, an important question in economic management is to stabilize production through proper production organizational and command work.

Stabilize production at a high level by properly providing conditions for production and by adhering to the organizational work for cooperative production and to production command work!

Fulfill the state plan by its daily, monthly, quarterly, and index quotas by firmly establishing planning discipline! Produce more and build more with available assets by intensifying the economization campaign and by properly managing manpower, resources, and facilities!

Produce and build nicely and usefully by reflecting a warmhearted spirit for the people even in producing only one piece of a good or building a single house!

The huge revolutionary task facing us today demands that the roles of the guidance functionaries be further enhanced.

All functionaries, remember the deep trust of the party and the expectations of the people, devote yourselves to accomplishing the revolutionary mission, and fulfill the duties of the commanding staffers of the revolution!

Correctly establish the revolutionary outlook on the masses and give firm priority to work with the people over all other work!

Thoroughly fulfill the demand of the great Chongsan-ri spirit and method of our party!

Let the entire party go among the masses!

Today, the places where our functionaries should stand are the battle sites seething in the course of great construction.

All functionaries, effect ceaseless innovations and labor upsurges by going down to the sites of great construction, by eating and sleeping with working people, and by encouraging them on to heroic struggle!

Gallantly overcome mounting difficulties and accomplish everything in a revolutionary manner with high conviction in victory and with the unyielding fighting spirit of crossing the burning river and wading through swamps!

Open a breakthrough always in the front of the ranks, as the commanding staffers of the anti-Japanese guerrillas did. Put your shoulder to difficult and hard work before others, and responsibly accomplish the given revolutionary tasks to the bitter end!

Become the true servants of the people who possess lofty revolutionary spirit, party spirit, working class spirit, and people mindedness, who share joys and sorrows with the masses, and who devote themselves to the struggle for the people!

The party has deep trust in the youths who are the blood-boiling fighters to build a new society and calls for them to take the lead in the march of the great construction.

Youths, become the vanguard and the shock brigade in socialist construction and open a breakthrough in the advance!

Take initiative in challenging the difficult and hard work and fully display the strength, wisdom, and creative passion of youth!

Fully display the heroic spirit of the Korean youths in the rewarding struggle to build permanent monumental structures according to the far-reaching economic construction plan of our party!

Let us more vigorously carry on the mass movement according to the realistic demand of socialist construction!

Ceaselessly deepen and develop the movement to win the red flag of the three revolutions and the campaign to follow the examples of the unsung heroes!

Working organizations: vigorously carry out the socialist competition campaign and various other mass campaigns and make the flames of collective innovation furiously rise!

The members of the three revolution teams are the vanguard dispatched by our party.

Vigorously push ahead with the three revolutions and effect a new turn in all areas of ideology, technology, and culture! The socialist and communist society requires a high cultural level.

Let the entire party, all people, and the entire army study!

Let us actively step up the intellectualization of the entire society!

Let us thoroughly oppose the cultural infiltration of imperialism, revisionism, and restorationism and more splendidly bloom and develop the chuche-oriented socialist national culture!

All teachers, uphold the theses on socialist education and firmly prepare the new generations as the credible successors of the chuche revolutionary cause who will possess knowledge and virtue and to be physically fit!

Decisively strengthen the common-level education and further enhance the level of the overall education of the country!

Enhance the quality of higher education and nurture more able national technological cadres who are boundlessly loyal to the party and revolution!

Rapidly enhance the level of science and technology and decisively strengthen the education in new scientific and technological areas!

More properly contribute to developing the science and technology of the country and the people's economy by thoroughly implementing the party's policy of educational revolution!

All working people, study hard and possess the general knowledge above the middle level and more than one modern skill at an early date!

Writers and artists: Create more revolutionary and party-minded literary and artistic works by thoroughly embodying the party's chuche-oriented idea and policy of literature and art!

Functionaries in the field of sports: Make sports masses-oriented and strengthen defense sports!

Elevate our sports onto the world level in all athletic fields by rapidly developing athletic sciences and techniques!

Functionaries in the field of public health: Further consolidate and develop our country's socialist people-minded public health system, thoroughly implement the party's policy of preventive medical science, and make the medical welfare of the state more available for the people!

All workers: Let us lead a frugal and tidy life, cherishing lofty communist moral traits in conformity with the demands of socialist life!

We are constructing socialism under grim circumstances in which the new war provocation maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets intensify with each each passing day. Let us completely prepare to smash the enemy's provocation maneuvers by thoroughly implementing our party's self-defending military lines!

The KPA is the direct successor to the glorious anti-Japanese armed struggle and is our party's revolutionary armed forces charged with the lofty mission of defending the socialist fatherland and revolutionary gains with the force of arms. Let us further enhance the People's Army politically and militarily so that it can fulfill its mission and duty of being the army of the party and the revolution!

Officers and men of the People's Army: Revolutionizing the entire Army is a basic guarantee for strengthening the People's Army into invincible revolutionary armed forces! Let us more firmly consolidate our People's Army into the combat ranks of loyal revolutionary fighters, who devote their lives to fighting for the victory of the party's chuche revolutionary cause, by actively accelerating the revolutionization of the entire Army!

Firmly prepare yourselves to be revolutionary fighters with a high party-minded spirit and revolutionary spirit by strengthening the study of the chuche idea and a revolutionary organizational life while upholding the slogan for revolutionizing the entire army!

Further strengthen the militant unity of the ranks through loyalty to the party and the leader and through revolutionary comradeship!

More firmly consolidate our People's Army into a one-can-beat-one hundred revolutionary armed forces, which are capable of defeating any aggression of the enemy at a single stroke, by intensifying combat and political training!

Army-people unity is a source of the invincible strength of our People's Army and a noble ethos of our people and army which has been handed down to them since the period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle!

Let us give full play to the laudable traditional custom of army-people unity in which the People's Army must defend the lives and property of the people with their lives and the people love the People's Army as much as they love their kin!

Members of the Red Worker-Peasant Militia and the Red Youth Guards: Make better preparations for military and technical preparedness and firmly defend their work sites, villages, and socialist fatherland by sincerely learning military affairs and by actively participating in military training!

Public security members and judiciary prosecution functionaries: Reliably safeguard our country's socialist system, the revolutionary gains, and the people's lives and property!

Establish a revolutionary system and order in all fields of social life and firmly set up a law-abiding ethos!

Do not permit a space, in which even a spy, subversive element, or saboteur can set foot, by heightening a revolutionary alertness, by keenly watching every move of the enemy, and by powerfully waging an anti-espionage movement in an all-people way!

The three-point principle of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity is a common national program for reunification that reflects the will of all Korean people. Let us put an end to the tragedy of national division at an early date through the united strength of the entire nation under the banner of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity!

National reunification is the supreme national task which must be accomplished in our our generation!

Let us independently reunify the fatherland in conformity with the aspirations and demands of our nation!

Let us create an atmosphere of peaceful reunification by removing the state of military confrontation between the North and the South and by easing the strained situation!

All conscientious Korean compatriots in the North and the South and abroad should achieve great national unity to hand a reunified fatherland down to our descendants.

Let us unite around a single great national united front, transcending differences in ideas, ideologies, systems, and religions, under the banner of independent and peaceful reunification!

Let us smash nation-ruining anticommunist maneuvers that cause division and antagonism within the nation and that drive the North and South into endless confrontation!

Let us reject the maneuvers of the splittists to exclusively hold the Olympics and struggle to realize the North-South cohosting of the games!

Let us make this year a new historic year with a new opportunity to turn toward national reconciliation and unity!

Let us open the gate to reunification at an early date by arranging a wide-ranging North-South joint conference that embodies the general will of the entire nation!

The proposal for founding a democratic confederal republic of Koryo is the most reasonable, fair, an above-board way for preventing the permanent division of the country and the disaster of war and peacefully reunifying the fatherland.

Let us smash the maneuvers of the splittists to cook up two Koreas and found the democratic confederal republic of Koryo, a neutral and nonaligned reunified independent state!

South Korean people, your demands for democracy and aspirations for social reforms and national reunification cannot be realized as long as the colonial rule of the United States continues in South Korea. More powerfully wage the antifascist struggle for democratization and national reunification, upholding the anti-U.S. banner of independence!

Put an end to the U.S. domination and interference and obtain national sovereignty by turning out for the anti-U.S. struggle for national liberation!

Make the U.S. nuclear weapons and forces of aggression, which jeopardize national survival, withdraw from South Korea without delay!

All democratic forces, terminate the military-fascist dictatorship, which tramples underfoot the right to survival and democratic freedom, with united strength and obtain a genuinely democratic regime!

We extend firm solidarity to the South Korean people of all walks of life who are bravely turning out for the struggle of justice for independence, democracy, and reunification.

All Chongnyon functionaries and compatriots in Japan, greet the 40th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK, the glorious fatherland, with shining success in patriotic work! More firmly build up Chongnyon into a church-oriented organization of overseas compatriots, upholding the banner of the great church idea!

Actively support and encourage the South Korean people's just anti-U.S. struggle for national salvation!

Powerfully conduct the struggle for independent and peaceful national reunification as an all-compatriots movement!

Resolutely defend the socialist fatherland, cherishing the pride and honor of being the overseas citizens of church Korea who are advancing in firm unity under the banner of the Republic!

Actively participate in the patriotic work of Chongnyon for the prosperity and development of the fatherland!

All Korean compatriots living overseas: Join your efforts in the South Korean people's anti-U.S. and antifascist struggle for independence and democratization and positively contribute to the nation's common cause of reunifying the fatherland!

Independence, friendship, and peace are the basic ideals of the foreign policy of our party and the government of our Republic. Let us strenuously struggle to build a new independent world after being united with the world's peoples who defend independence!

Let us strengthen friendship and unity with the fraternal socialist countries under the banner of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism! Let us further develop exchanges and cooperation with the socialist countries in political, economic, cultural, and all other fields!

Let us struggle to positively develop the relations of friendship and cooperation with nonaligned countries and Third World countries, to check and frustrate the imperialists' maneuvers for division and dissension, and to strengthen unity and cohesion in the Nonaligned Movement, while upholding the banner of the anti-imperialist cause of independence! Let us continuously wage a vigorous anti-imperialist struggle for national liberation to oppose the aggression and intervention maneuvers of the imperialists, colonialists, and neocolonialists and to achieve complete national liberation for people of developing countries and oppressed people! Let us struggle to crush the unequal old-fashioned international economic order, a means of the imperialists' neocolonial exploitation and plunder, and build a new international economic order based upon independence, equality, and reciprocity! Let us expand and develop South-South cooperation in an overall manner under the banner of collective self-reliance!

Let us enter good-neighbor relations with capitalist countries that respect our country's independence and that are friendly to our country, and develop economic and cultural exchanges with them!

A fundamental cause that threatens peace in the world and aggravates international tension is the imperialists' policy of aggression and plunder. Let us check and frustrate the imperialists' maneuvers to provoke aggression and to provoke a new war and defend peace and security in the world after being strongly united with the world's peace-loving peoples! Let us strenuously struggle to oppose the U.S. imperialists' policy of aggression and war! Let us struggle to ban the experimentation, production, storage, and use of nuclear weapons, to prevent the militarization of the space, and to get rid of all nuclear weapons!

Let us struggle to crush the U.S. imperialists' maneuvers to provoke a war in Korea and to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free peace zone!

We support the peaceful proposals and initiatives of the socialist countries and other peace-loving countries for preventing a nuclear war and for defending peace and security in the world and extend firm solidarity with the struggle to realize those proposals.

We oppose imperialism, colonialism, racism, and Zionism and positively support the righteous cause of the Asian, African, and Latin American peoples, who are struggling to

achieve sovereignty and independence and to build a new society, and the struggle of the working class and the popular masses in capitalist countries who oppose the exploitation and oppression of comprador capital.

Our people, who mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic, are filled with high national pride and revolutionary fervor and firm resolve to vigorously fight for victory in the cause of modeling all of society after the *chuche* idea under the leadership of the party.

Our people who are fighting for the just cause, with power in their hands, under the wise leadership of the party and the leader, will always score victories and our fatherland will prosper and flourish eternally.

Let us all vigorously fight for the ultimate victory of the *chuche* revolutionary cause after being strongly united around the party Central Committee led by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song!

Long live the 40th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK, an honorable fatherland!

[Signed] The WPK Central Committee

[Dated] 20 February 1988

South Korea

Students Occupy U.S. Cultural Center

SK241138 Seoul YONHAP in English
1128 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 24 (YONHAP)—Five students armed with home-made fire bombs occupied the U.S. Information Service building here Wednesday and staged a sit-in demanding that the U.S. Government stop meddling in South Korea's domestic affairs and end its pressure for opening the Korean market to U.S. goods and services.

The students from five Seoul universities were driven out of the building two hours later by police who stormed the structure through the rear entrance.

The seizure marked the second time that the U.S. Information Service building in downtown Seoul has been occupied by Korean students. In May 1985, 73 students occupied the building and staged a three-day sit-in demanding a U.S. apology for what they alleged was U.S. involvement in the suppression of the bloody 1980 civilian uprising in Kwangju.

The students entered the library on the second floor of the four-story U.S. facility after showing their student ID cards at about 4 p.m. local time, and then escorted the library clerks out of the office.

The students broke three windows and hung a banner outside a window which said out with the United States. The students also shouted anti-government slogans.

The students said they had more than 30 home-made firebombs in their possession and threw one firebomb onto the street at 5:30 p.m.

The students also hurled leaflets through a broken window which said that Korea's presidential election in mid-December last year was fraudulent and that the United States is a dictatorial regime.

All five students were arrested by police who rushed the building at 5:55 p.m., one hour and 55 minutes after the students entered the facility.

Police retrieved four home-made fire bombs, candles and some 20 leaflets.

Police Arrest Demonstrators

SK240959 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean
0900 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] A mobilized police force entered the U.S. Cultural Center in Seoul at around 1750 [0850 GMT] today and took into police custody all of the university students who had been staging a sit-in in its library after occupying it. Thus, the incident of the sit-in by university students in the library that began at the center at 1600 [0700 GMT] has ended after about 2 hours.

A total of 15 university students, including Han Ki-won, a senior of the department of food engineering at the Cheju University, and 13 other male students and 1 coed entered the U.S. Cultural Center library at around 1600 today. They were not checked at the door and simply presented their identification cards before beginning to stage their sit-in.

After breaking three large glass panes, they put a placard in a library window reading "Stop pressing us to open import markets!" and through a publication called a declaration of struggle in the name of the National Salvation Death Band of Students and Youths, they claimed that today, 1 day before the inauguration of No Tae-u, the nation's destiny has fallen into domination by outside forces and into the hell of fascism. They contended that an end should be put to military rule within the year.

Enveloping themselves in national flags, they thrust their bodies out from the window and shouted slogans, including "The United States, which is perpetrating economic aggression, should withdraw!"

At around 1730 [0830 GMT], they threw a Molotov cocktail they brought into the library through a window on Ulchiro Street. However, no special damage was reported.

As soon as they began the sit-in, the police deployed about 200 combat police both in uniform and civilian clothes around the Cultural Center. At 1750 [0250 GMT], the police began their operation and took all of the students to the police station at around 1800 [0900 GMT].

No's Inauguration Heralds Sixth Republic
SK230254 Seoul YONHAP in English
0237 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 23 (YONHAP)—The era of South Korea's Sixth Republic will officially start on Thursday as the term of outgoing President Chon Tu-hwan expires at midnight on Wednesday (Feb. 24).

The South Korean Government said in an announcement issued late Monday that President-elect No Tae-u will officially take office as South Korea's president in an inauguration ceremony to be held at 10 a.m. Thursday (local time).

Government Administration Minister Chang Ki-o said the government has designated Thursday as a special national holiday for the inauguration. The nation will hoist the national flag and foster an atmosphere in which people of all walks of social life celebrate and seek harmony, he said in the announcement.

The presidential inauguration will be followed by a congratulatory banquet and a dinner for the outgoing and incoming presidents. The new president will also visit the national cemetery to pay homage to the nation's patriots.

No other separate function will be held for the outgoing president other than the farewell dinner slated for later Wednesday with representatives of people from various walks of life invited, Minister Chang said.

Chang said the presidential inauguration ceremony will be held in a very humble but solemn manner.

The presidential hymn will not be sung and the presidential emblem will not be installed during the inauguration ceremony, Chang disclosed. He also said that during the ceremony, the new president will not be addressed in such an authoritarian manner as your excellency.

Cabinet members and other participants at the ceremony will be urged to use buses instead of their own cars to reach the inauguration site in an effort to prevent the intracity traffic from being further congested.

The participants, regardless of their social status, will be seated in the order of arrival. The presidential seats above the stage will be placed in the same row with other invited dignitaries.

Chang said he expected more than 25,000 people including foreign envoys to attend the ceremony.

No will visit Chongwadae presidential residence before the inauguration ceremony for the official transfer of government power from the outgoing president. No will also confer appointment letters on new cabinet members earlier that day.

Dissidents Stage Protest

SK241330 Seoul Television Service in Korean
1200 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Members of opposition organizations, including the National Movement for Democracy, the United Mass Movement for Democracy and National Unification, and the Preparatory Committee for the Party of Masses, held a rally to denounce the so-called illegal taking of power at Myongdong this afternoon and staged a fierce demonstration.

Meanwhile, 5 representatives of merchants, including Kim Chang-hwan, president of the Association for Prosperity of Business Quarters of Myongdong, visited the Myongdong Cathedral as they could not carry out business activities because of the demonstration and asserted that the Myongdong Cathedral has been turned into the site of various demonstrations and sit-ins and as the result, about 3,600 merchants in Myongdong are faced with bankruptcy. They stressed that if the Cathedral continuously allows such illegal rallies, all the merchants would occupy the Cathedral and stage a sit-in.

Police To Block Demonstrations

SK240900 Seoul YONHAP in English
0852 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 24 (YONHAP)—Police will block attempted rallies and street demonstrations carried out by dissident organizations and student activists seeking to protest Thursday's inauguration of No Tae-u as South Korea's 13th president.

Police have prepared a list of 250 individuals, including 234 college students, for surveillance purposes and are closely watching their movements.

According to police information, dissident organizations have plans to hold rallies and street demonstrations in Seoul and the southern provincial cities of Kwangju and Chonju on Wednesday and Thursday.

The National Headquarters for Democracy and Sodaeh-yop, an organization of university students in Seoul, are planning to hold a rally at the Myongdong Cathedral in Seoul on Wednesday afternoon to denounce what they call the unrighteous seizure of power by No Tae-u. The protesters also plan to take to the streets.

On Wednesday, the National Headquarters for Democracy and another group will hold a rally at the Catholic Center in Kwangju to protest No's inauguration while they also plan to hold a rally on Thursday morning in front of the provincial government building in Kwangju.

On Thursday morning when No is to be sworn in as president, students from 11 universities in Seoul plan to hold a joint rally at Yonsei University to oppose No's inauguration.

Police plan to fully refrain as much as possible from using tear gas to block the rallies while also urging school authorities to persuade the students to disperse voluntarily.

Takeshita, Baker Arrive

SK240902 Seoul YONHAP in English
0857 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 24 (YONHAP)—Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker 3d arrived here Wednesday afternoon to attend the inauguration ceremony of South Korean President-elect No Tae-u on Thursday.

Takeshita, on his first trip to Korea since taking office last November, will hold a meeting with No Thursday at Chongwadae, the presidential residence here, to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation between Seoul and Tokyo.

Some 250 dignitaries from 88 countries are expected to attend the presidential inauguration. On Wednesday alone, 38 dignitaries are expected to arrive in Seoul, according to the Korean Foreign Ministry.

North Expected To Stage 'Provocations'

SK230315 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
23 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] The Counter-Infiltration Operations Command said yesterday that north Korea is expected to conduct various types of provocations against the south this year to sabotage the Seoul Olympics.

In a briefing on security measures, the command said the Pyongyang regime will most likely wage an all-out war on the Korean peninsula if the circumstances permit.

The annual briefing was held at Army Hall with some 100 academic figures attending. Among them were presidents of universities and other academic institutions.

For a successful hosting of the 1988 Seoul Olympics, it said the military will beef up its security arrangements to prevent north Korean provocations.

While strengthening control over residents in the front-line area, north Korea has already deployed troops necessary for a war along the Demilitarized Zone, it said.

The command will hold the same briefings for 1,300 leaders of economic, social and cultural circles on four occasions by the end of this month.

Cessation of 'Team Spirit' Demanded by North

SK231139 Seoul YONHAP in English
1126 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Panmunjom, Korea, Feb. 23 (YONHAP)—The U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC) Tuesday rejected as meaningless propaganda the North Korean demand for suspension of the annual joint military exercise involving U.S. and South Korean forces known as Team Spirit, which the North said created tension between the two sides.

In the 441st meeting of the Korea Military Armistice Commission (MAC) held in this truce village, U.S. Navy Rear Adm. William T. Pendley, the UNC's senior delegate to the MAC, said, if there are increased tensions, they are not the result of a defensive military exercise that has taken place every year for 13 years with you being informed in advance every year since 1982 and invited to send observers.

Pendley told his North Korean counterpart Maj. Gen. Yi Tae-ho that the only purpose of South Korea and its allies within the UNC is to maintain reduced tension on the Korean peninsula so that more than 160 nations of the world can participate this year in the first really universal and peaceful Olympic games.

Pendley accused North Korea of having committed a despicable crime in the bombing of a Korean Air (KAL) jetliner with 115 innocent people aboard, the majority of whom were South Korean construction workers returning to their families.

Pointing out that the North's motive for the bombing was obviously to create tension on the Korean peninsula and discourage other nations from attending the Seoul Olympics, Pendley demanded that the North publicly apologize for the brutal, uncivilized and unprovoked terrorist attack and punish those responsible.

Pendley dismissed Yi's claim that South Korea had bombed its own plane, saying that you thought you had committed the perfect crime but, like all criminals, you made a mistake. No amount of your absurd rhetoric can erase the real facts or shift your guilt.

Pendley added, unfortunately for you, one of your terrorists survived and told her story to the world. Kim Hyon-hui is much more convincing than you are.

Kim, a 26-year-old daughter of a North Korean diplomat, confessed that she and a male companion were specially trained North Korean agents and had planted a bomb on KAL Flight 858 on Nov. 29 last year carrying out the orders from the highest authorities in North Korea.

Flight 858, which originated in Baghdad, Iraq, made one stop in Abu Dhabi but later disappeared over the Andaman Sea off Burma before a scheduled refueling stop in Bangkok en route to Seoul.

Authorities found that Kim and her male companion had boarded the ill-fated flight in Baghdad, but deplaned in Abu Dhabi. The two were later stopped by authorities at the Manama, Bahrain airport but both took poison while awaiting questioning on their false Japanese passports. The man died, but Kim survived and was extradited to Seoul where she confessed about her involvement.

U.S. Treasury Officials To Discuss Won Rate
SK230200 Seoul YONHAP in English
0149 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 23 (YONHAP)—U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker 3d will meet his Korean counterpart Sakong Il to discuss bilateral pending issues during Baker's three-day visit here, sources at the Finance Ministry said Tuesday.

The treasury secretary is to arrive here Wednesday as head of a U.S. congratulatory mission to attend the presidential inauguration of No Tae-u on Thursday.

Baker and Sakong will meet on Friday just before Baker's departure from Korea.

The sources said that the Baker-Sakong talks had been arranged after an initial proposal by the U.S. side.

The talks are likely to focus on the won's appreciation against the U.S. dollar. Among Baker's entourage will be two senior Treasury officials responsible for the exchange rate issue—Deputy Assistant Secretary Charles Dallara and Todd Crawford, a Korea analyst at the treasury office which handles matters relating to developing nations.

The United States is pressuring Korea to accelerate the won's appreciation against the dollar as a way to cut its trade deficit with Korea. The United States registered a 9.55 billion dollar trade deficit with Korea last year, following a 7.4 billion dollar deficit in 1986.

The won appreciated 8.72 percent against the dollar in 1987. As of Tuesday, the won's value has risen 3.40 percent since the end of last year.

2 Kims Meet, Agree To Resume Negotiations
SK231328 Seoul YONHAP in English
1303 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 23 (YONHAP)—The two most influential leaders of South Korea's fractured opposition agreed Tuesday to resume negotiations for the merger of their parties to ensure an opposition victory in the parliamentary elections expected to be held in April.

In a three-point agreement produced in their first meeting in four months, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung also decided to push for a one-lawmaker or small constituency system in single voice against the government party in the negotiations for amendments to the National Assembly election law.

The two Kims met last on Oct. 29, a week before Kim Tae-chung broke away from the other Kim's Reunification Democratic Party to form his own party and run separately in the Dec. 16 presidential election.

The two Kims also agreed to call for suspension of some reported moves to form new opposition parties and to encourage those involved in the moves to participate in the reunifying of the split opposition.

Emerging from the two-hour meeting at a Seoul hotel, however, the rival Kims showed differences on details of the reunification procedure leaving unclear prospect for the renewed efforts for a united opposition.

Kim Yong-sam said the merger of the two major opposition parties should precede but Kim Tae-chung insisted on a three-way formula including the dissident groups.

Earlier Tuesday, Kim Yong-sam offered a surprise meeting with Kim Tae-chung expressing his willingness to accept the small constituency system which has been the key obstacle in talks for opposition unity between his RDP and Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy.

Kim Yong-sam made the proposal in his first press conference since Feb. 8 when he announced a surprise resignation to spark a new round of negotiations between the two parties for a merger.

The new round of talks, however, also ended in a rupture last weekend after the two parties failed to narrow their differences.

Agree To Promote Unity
SK240142 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
24 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Opposition leaders Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung yesterday vowed their sincere efforts for opposition integration in their first meeting in four months and agreed to resume negotiations between party representatives.

"We, sharing the view that the grand opposition unity is the only way to attain opposition victory in the forthcoming general elections, have agreed to promote it positively," a joint statement said.

They further agreed that the Reunification Democratic Party [PPD] and the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] would work to adopt the small parliamentary district system.

It means that the RDP will withdraw from its position favoring the medium-size district formula.

The two opposition leaders called for the suspension of on-going movements by various opposition groups to found their own parties and asked them to participate in the resumed efforts for opposition integration in their three-point agreement.

But the prospect for integration of the two major opposition parties still remained unclear as the rival leaders showed differences over detailed steps.

Kim Yong-sam renewed his call for an immediate, "unconditional" merger of the two parties in the surprise meeting with the president of the PPD.

Kim Tae-chung insisted on a three-way opposition unification including the dissident forces.

Kim Yong-sam asserted, "No procedural matters or any other excuse can take precedence over the grand opposition unity itself which is absolutely required for opposition victory in the forthcoming parliamentary elections."

"I don't think that the parliamentary district formula and methods of integration can obstruct the opposition integration," Kim Yong-sam said.

"Only if the opposition integration is realized, the unified opposition party would become the majority parliamentary force through the upcoming general elections under any district formula," Kim Yong-sam said in a confidence manner during a press conference yesterday morning.

The major opposition RDP seeks to adopt the medium-size district each electing two to four lawmakers depending upon its population, while the PPD insists on the small constituency electing one lawmaker from each district.

The parliamentary district formula and the method of integration have foiled the inter-party negotiations for the integration which had begun after Kim Yong-sam resigned from the RDP Leadership on Feb. 8.

The PPD has insisted that the RDP, withdrawing from its official line for the medium-size district, should adopt the small district system in its decision-making organ first to facilitate the opposition integration.

The summit talk between the two unsuccessful presidential candidates was made as PPD President Kim Accepted the offer of the younger Kim in a press conference at his home in Sangdo-dong.

Kim Yong-sam returned home Monday night after taking rest at the resort of Mt. Sorak and Songni for two weeks after his resignation from the top party post.

The former RDP President denied the report that the PPD president proposed a meeting between the two Kims through his aide.

In his press conference, Kim Yong-sam said, "I felt heartbroken in the wake of the dissipation of a hope for the opposition unity. But the efforts for the opposition unification should not and can not be abandoned."

He appealed to all the politicians "to discard their personal interests for the opposition unity. By doing so, I am sure, the opposition integration will be realized without fail."

"All opposition politicians should think seriously who will benefit from the failure to realize the opposition integration," Kim Yong-sam said.

He expressed fear that the two major opposition parties would become splinter groups if the split opposition undergo the general elections to be held by late April.

The 60-year-old politician then called upon various minor opposition groups to suspend movements to found own parties and to join the unified opposition party.

Observers interpreted that the "second" initiative of Kim Yong-sam for the opposition integration could be a pressure to drive his former colleague from the PPD leadership.

Since Kim Yong-sam's resignation, the PPD president has been under a public pressure to follow suit to pave the way for the opposition unification.

Meanwhile, the RDP resolved "to fully support the former president's efforts for the opposition integration" in a meeting of Executive Council and caucus.

Kim Tae-chung's Talks to Press
SK240211 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
24 Feb 88 p 2

[Kim Tae-chung answers unidentified reporters' questions following his meeting with Kim Yong-sam 23 February, place not given]

[Text] Question: Did you have any difference from Kim Yong-sam in the issue of admitting dissident figures in the proposed merger? h

Answer: We two just used different expressions, but we had no fundamental differences.

The issue will be dealt with by the 16-member negotiation body of the two parties and we will approve decisions made by the body.

Q: What will you two do when the opposition is integrated?

A: What we will do (whether we will resign from the party presidency) does not matter so much, compared with the importance of the opposition reunion.

We both will tour the country together (during the election campaign) to help the unified opposition win the coming parliamentary election and thus relieve the people of the frustration (from the opposition defeat in the presidential election).

Kim Yong-sam and I agreed that the opposition should be united at any cost and shared the view that the unity is absolutely needed to win the general elections.

To win the election, we must achieve a single-seat constituency format, and Kim Yong-sam agreed to jointly struggle to achieve that format.

Q: Do you think the PPD [Party for Peace and Democracy]-proposed three-way merger including dissident groups will be an obstacle to the negotiation of the opposition integration?

A: The real problem was whether we the opposition could achieve a single-seat election format, not the dissidents issue. I believe that issue will be well settled at the coming bipartisan negotiations.

Kim Yong-sam Denies Return to RDP Presidency
SK240355 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
24 Feb 88 p 2

[From the "Out and About" column: "Return from Retreats"]

[Text] Returning to Seoul after a two-week "political vacation" at mountain retreats, former RDP president Kim Yong-sam said, "I thought my resignation (on Feb. 8) would help accelerate the opposition reunity."

In a press meeting at his house in the morning, Kim said, "Now that the hope for an opposition merger is about to be destroyed, I propose a meeting with Kim Tae-chung."

Asked if he has virtually returned to the party presidency, he said, "Oh, that's not true, never."

"If the opposition fails to unite, it would only inspire the ruling camp," he said.

DRC Presents Three-Part Recommendations
SK240113 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
24 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] The Democratization and Reconciliation Council [DRC] yesterday adopted a recommendation package of democratic reform and reconciliatory measures at its final meeting at the Sejong Cultural Center, handing the papers to new president No Tae-u at its closing ceremony.

The recommendation package, following 40 days of the civic commission's work, contains far-reaching reforms to be carried out by the new president.

Divided into three chapters, each is devoted to democratic reforms, national reconciliation and social reform. The first chapter is marked by recommendations on improved human rights, independence of the judiciary bench, strengthening of parliamentary function and the revamping of government organization.

Specifically, the new president is urged to declare a human rights charter in a bid to show his firm determination to guarantee civil rights.

Under the human rights recommendations, the Agency for National Security Planning may exceptionally conduct anti-Communist investigation but under the direction of a civilian prosecutor. Military investigative units will be banned from investigation civilians.

As part of ways to ensure the independence of the judiciary, the new government is recommended to give it more leeway in drawing its own budget, respect the opinions of judges in submitting judiciary bills to the parliamentary and seek an overhaul of the current judge placement system.

Other recommendations in the first chapter include the promotion of the press freedom, political neutrality of the military, democratization of the ruling party and more autonomy at all levels of society.

The second chapter, core of the recommendation package, deals with the specific remedies of the 1980 Kwangju uprising, presenting a new definition of the uprising.

The honor of Kwangju citizens should be restored with reinterpretation of the Kwangju uprising as "efforts of Kwangju students and citizens for democratization," says the recommendation.

The new reinterpretation contrasts the government perception of the uprising as "revolt" or "rebellion."

The recommendation also calls for government-level apology for its excesses in putting down the protesters and failure to compensate for the bereaved families and those wounded in the blood-letting.

Along with the Kwangju remedies, it calls on the new president to grant sweeping amnesty to those prisoners who were "jailed for fighting for democratization" and other trifle offenders.

It excludes anti-state offenders and felonious criminals such as rapist-murderers.

In its recommendation on social reforms, the package calls for the government's reinstatement of the 5,699 public servants who were dismissed during the transition period of 1980 under a government social clean-up drive.

Its anti-corruption measures include the disclosure of the properties of high-ranking government officials and substantial increase in civil servants' pay.

With the adoption of the 196-page recommendation package, the 56-member civic body formally wrapped up its 38 days of activities yesterday.

The provisional commission, charged with mapping out a blueprint for democratic reform and reconciliation for new president No, has been working on them since its creation on Jan. 11, divided into three working panels on democratic reform, reconciliation and social reform.

DRC members, coming from all walks of life, have so far done twelve rounds of panel discussions and three full sessions.

U.S. Military Apologizes for 'Rampage'
SK240251 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
24 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] Pohang, Kyongsangbuk-do (YONHAP)—Two officers of a U.S. Army unit here yesterday visited Mayor O Hyon-tok at his office and extended an apology for the rampage by some of their servicemen last Friday.

Lt. Col. John J. Carr and Cpt. Dana D. Jennings of the 19th Support Command also visited three civilians hospitalized for injuries they suffered as a result of the rampage at Sollin Hospital later in the day and gave them condolence money.

More than 20 American soldiers assigned to the U.S. military unit commandeered a city bus Friday night, causing the bus to collide with a taxi.

The cab driver and his two passengers were injured in the accident, which occurred when one of the soldiers kicked the bus driver in the head.

Police nabbed three of the U.S. soldiers after the incident and handed them over to the U.S. military investigation authorities.

Farmers Recommend Firm Stand Against U.S.
SK230137 Seoul YONHAP in English
0124 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 23 (YONHAP)—Representatives of South Korea's livestock farmers Tuesday recommended that the government take a firm stand against U.S. pressure to allow beef imports into Korea's market.

The National Livestock Cooperations Federation warned in the recommendation that liberalizing imports of livestock products would lead to the collapse of Korea's livestock industry.

The federation adopted the recommendation during its general meeting at the Federation of Korean Industries building here.

The recommendation said that while beef imports may be inevitable, the government should first establish measures such as financial and tax benefits to protect domestic livestock farmers, and then allow imports on a restricted basis.

Amid a U.S. threat to invoke Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act, South Korea has offered to begin importing U.S. beef for use not only at tourist hotels but also at tourist restaurants by May 1.

The U.S. side, however, demanded that Korea extend sales of the imported beef to public restaurants before Dec. 1 this year, which Korean officials say would amount to the full liberalization of Korea's beef market.

Those present at Tuesday's meeting also urged that the government exempt feedstuff, and materials and equipment for stock raising from the value-added tax, while controlling large businesses entering the livestock industry and stabilizing the prices of livestock products.

South Korea and the United States failed to reach an agreement on the beef import issue during their talks in Geneva on Feb. 19-20.

But the two sides did agree, however, to continue their bilateral talks.

During the Geneva talks, sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the U.S. side argued that Korea's suspension of beef imports in 1985 was a violation of GATT regulations. The U.S. side also called on Korea to resume beef imports at the earliest possible date.

Korea maintained that a temporary suspension of foreign beef imports was inevitable.

Cambodia

Phnom Penh Meeting Marks Soviet Army Day

BK231421 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The Defense Ministry held a grand meeting at the Basak Theater Hall on the morning of 23 February to mark the 70th founding anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy.

Present in the presidium of the meeting, among others, were, on the Cambodian side, Comrade Say Phuthang, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, chairman of the party Central Committee's Control Commission, and vice chairman of the PRK Council of State; Comrade Bou Thang, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Mat Ly, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the National Assembly, and chairman of the Kampuchean Federation of Trade Unions; Comrade Ney Pena, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of the interior; on the Soviet side, Comrade Yuriy Ivanovich Razdukhov, USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Cambodia.

Also attending this grand meeting were the comrades members and alternate members of the party Central Committee; ministers; deputy ministers, KPRAF cadres and combatants; cadres, personnel, and workers from various central ministries and departments; and a large number of Phnom Penh residents as well as the ambassadors, charges d'affaires, and military attaches of the socialist countries designated to Cambodia.

Speaking on that occasion, Comrade Ke Kimyan, member of the party Central Committee, deputy minister of national defense, and chief of the KPRAF General Staff, warmly acclaimed the 70th founding anniversary of the Soviet Union's Army and Navy.

The comrade clearly described the valiant deeds, good ethics, and the growth of the Soviet Army and Navy during the past 70 years of struggle, overcoming numerous obstacles and difficulties including the war of aggression by the German fascists and Japanese militarists, until they could totally liberate the fatherland and people from oppression. At present the Soviet Army and Navy have become a modern army that strictly abides by the discipline and pursues the working class's ethics, thus rendering themselves worthy of being the army of the people. Particularly, its influence [passage indistinct].

The comrade expressed profound thanks to the Soviet party, people, and Armed Forces which have been giving support and assistance, morally and materially, to the Cambodian people.

Comrade Ke Kimyan also exhorted all KPRAF cadres and combatants to draw lessons from the model of heroic struggle set by the Soviet Army and Navy which dared to fight and to sacrifice everything for the defense of the achievements [passage indistinct].

In his speech, Comrade Mariasov, military attache of the Soviet Embassy in Cambodia, noted the significance of the birth and growth of the Soviet Armed Forces which have fulfilled their duties to defend the socialist achievements in cooperation with the armies of the Warsaw Pact countries. The comrade added that the militant solidarity of the socialist countries constituted the firm factor for peace, stability, international relations, and the bulwark of security and peace in the world.

The comrade stressed that the Soviet Union is vigorously strengthening and expanding the relations of friendship and mutual assistance with the Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Lao Armies which are jointly struggling against the international reactionaries' maneuvers and for national independence and [words indistinct].

SRV Defenses in Angkor, Siem Reap Attack

BK240114 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic
Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] On 18 February, our National Army, in cooperation with the people and patriotic Cambodian soldiers, attacked the Vietnamese enemy defense line protecting Angkor in Siem Reap District [Siem Reap Province]. We killed 31 Vietnamese enemy soldiers and wounded 45 for a total of 76 casualties. Among those killed were a provincial official, two district officials, two district office heads, and three company commanders. We destroyed 5 district office buildings, a platoon position, 2 company positions, 25 assorted weapons, 50 army shelters, an ammunition depot, 2 paddy stock buildings, a rice stock, a cloth stock, an army warehouse, a spy school, a vehicle, a C-25 radio, 5 telephones, and some materiel. We freed 2 companies of Cambodian soldiers, 65 militiamen, and 70 people jailed by the Vietnamese enemy. We liberated six villages in Angkor Thom commune: Thlung, Leang Dai, Dambok Roling, Kamproung, Ta Prok, and Don Au. We seized 11 weapons, 2,000 rounds of AK ammunition, 6 B-40 rockets, and some materiel.

Actions of DK Forces in Kompong Thom Praised

BK240334 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic
Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Station commentary: "Our National Army on the Kompong Thom Battlefield Is More Vigorously Increasing Attacks To Dismantle Vietnamese Enemy Administrative Networks In Accordance with the Directive on Attack Against Two or Three Villages"]

[Text] Our National Army on the Kompong Thom battlefield, like our forces on other battlefields throughout the country, has firmly grasped and correctly implemented the new directive of the Supreme Command of

the Democratic Kampuchean National Army and has increased attacks against villages to dismantle the Vietnamese administrative networks more vigorously and more actively. Our comrades in arms on every front on the entire Kompong Thom battlefield have promoted the emulation movement and enthusiastically implemented the plan to attack two or three villages, depending on the category of the villages, with an offensive and progressive spirit.

As a result, in December we repeatedly attacked and dismantled village and commune administrative networks and liberated 48 villages and 2 communes. In January, our comrades in arms attacked and dismantled Vietnamese administrative networks and liberated 77 villages, 3 communes, and a township. Between 1 and 15 February, our comrades in arms repeatedly attacked and dismantled administrative networks and liberated 43 villages and 5 communes. Looking at these monthly figures, we see that our comrades in arms have constantly moved forward in attacking more and more Vietnamese enemy villages.

Because of these attacks by our National Army, the Vietnamese enemy on the Kompong Thom battlefield has encountered great difficulties. Vietnamese bases in various villages and communes have been shaken and are further deteriorating. The Vietnamese are panicking; they are like blind people, deprived of ears and limbs, and have lost all their sources. They can no longer plunder our paddy and rice to feed their aggressor troops at will nor can they levy taxes from our people. They have lost their source to draft our people's children to serve as soldiers to die on their behalf. They are unable to round up our people for the K-5 plan. They can no longer draft our people to serve as their agents. Along with this, the propaganda and education networks, spies and links of the Vietnamese in villages have been uprooted and dispersed one after another. Together with these active attacks against villages, our National Army has also urged our people to follow the advice on the three things to be done to further dry up the Vietnamese enemy sources. We have promoted with very good results the three-element forces. Thus, we have increased our fighting forces 10 or 100 fold.

In short, on the Kompong Thom battlefield, in cooperation with our people and patriotic Cambodian soldiers and administrative officials forced to serve the Vietnamese enemy, our National Army has enthusiastically launched numerous and coordinated attacks against the Vietnamese. This has tied down Vietnamese forces everywhere. We repeatedly attack the same places in and outside our zones. This has enabled us to dismantle and liberate increasing numbers of villages in the vast rural area. It has also made our forces stronger in attacking and putting pressure on strategic roads, in particular the National Road No 6, and in pressuring the Vietnamese enemy in Kompong Thom town, where they are constantly panicking.

Based on our good experiences and conditions, our National Army on the Kompong Thom battlefield pledges to continue to further implement well the idea of attacking two or three villages and to compete with one another in more actively and more vigorously implementing the plan to attack villages according to their categories to continue to transform these villages into those which are liberated during night time, semi-liberated, and liberated. This is to contribute with our National Army and people throughout the country to the struggle to fight and chase the Vietnamese enemy out of our Cambodian territory and to certainly liberate the whole of our Cambodian fatherland.

Briefs

SRV Province's Assistance

Between 1979 and 1983, Vietnam's Hau Giang provided over 3,580 metric tons of rice seeds, 55 metric tons of corn, 10 motor pumps, and other agricultural tools to Kompong Chhnang Province and sent many specialists and experts to assist in the fields of industry, transport, education, health, propaganda and culture. In 1984-85, hundreds of metric tons of IR-36 rice seeds, cement, and iron bars were sent to Kompong Chhnang along with 17 agricultural specialists and some medical equipment and four specialists in surgery. In 1984-85, the Vietnamese side imported industrial materials worth over 690,000 riel while the Cambodian side exported agricultural products worth over 700,000 riel. In 1985-86, Hau Giang helped train Cambodian economic and social cadres with good results and imported cement, tin sheets, rubber, cloth, bicycles, and ceramic paint worth nearly 1.9 million riel. In 1986-87, the Vietnamese province contributed studies on intensive rice cultivation, production of rice seeds, and vaccination of cattle in various districts in Kompong Chhnang. In 1987, the Vietnamese side built a child center, worth 5 million riel, in Kompong Chhnang provincial seat. [Summary] [Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 23 Feb 88 BK]

Indonesia

Iranian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Holds Talks With Mokhtar

LD231924 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—As usual Iranian pilgrims will participate in this year's hajj pilgrimage and will stage grand rally in Mecca in support of the Palestinian Muslims' uprising and as a form of protest to the Zionist regime's brutalities, announced Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Jakarta Tuesday.

During talks with ranking Indonesian officials, Velayati explained the savagery unleashed by the Riyadh regime against defenseless pilgrims in Mecca.

Velayati noting the Saudi Regime's anti-Islamic nature stressed on the need for administering Haramayn Sharifeyn (Holy Shrines) by a panel of committed ulema from the Muslim world.

Studied at the session chaired by Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mokhtar Kusumaatmadja, were Tehran-Jakarta relations as well as important regional and international issues.

Velayati's suggestion for convening of the first session of the Tehran-Jakarta joint commission was accepted by his counterpart.

Necessary coordination was also discussed between the two sides concerning the upcoming meet of the Non-Aligned Movement's (NAM) foreign ministers to be held in Cyprus.

It was also decided to continue consultations for selecting the venue for the ninth session of the NAM summit meet.

The meeting also stressed Iran-Indonesia cooperation in international circles.

The Iranian foreign minister arrived in Jakarta Monday at the head of a delegation.

Passes on Khamene'i Message

LD231556 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with Indonesian President Sharto in Jakarta Tuesday morning and submitted him a verbal message from President 'Ali Khamene'i.

During the meeting, also attended by Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmadja and Iranian Ambassador to Jakarta Hoseyn Mir-Fakhar, Tehran-Jakarta political, commercial and industrial relations were discussed.

Velayati also briefed President Suharto on the Islamic Republic's stands on various regional and international issues and on the U.S. meddlings in the Persian Gulf in support of the war mongering Ba'thist regime of Iraq.

The foreign minister, referring to U.S. attempts in international circles to impose an arms embargo on Iran, said that the Islamic Republic has been virtually facing such hostile actions since a long time ago but none of the sanctions have had even the least effect on the sacred defence of Iran's Muslim people.

True to the Islamic Republic's prediction, the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf has not only reached a dead-end but has also heightened regional tension, said Velayati. The U.S. after realizing the acute vulnerability of its forces in the region is now cutting their number, he noted.

In response, President Suharto emphasized on the need to expand Tehran-Jakarta relations.

He praised the Islamic Republic and the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council for its steps towards starting talks on maintaining regional security without the interference of foreign powers.

The Indonesian president expressed hope that he would pay an official visit to Tehran in the future.

After his meeting with President Suharto, Foreign Minister Velayati attended a press conference in the Indonesian capital.

Meets With Various Officials

LD240741 Tehran IRNA in English 0728 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 24, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati currently in Jakarta on an official visit met with Indonesian State Minister Sudharmono Tuesday.

The Indonesian official called for expansion of economic and political relations between his country and Iran. The present economic problems of the world, he added, must be overcome by cooperation.

Velayati who arrived here Monday at the head of a delegation referred to historical relations between the two countries and their common cultural and religious ties. He said that Iran's post-revolution foreign policy is based on promotion of relations with Muslim and Third World countries. He expressed Iran's interest in further strengthening of bilateral ties.

Meanwhile Velayati met with Indonesia's minister of economic, financial, industrial affairs and development Ali Wardhana Tuesday and both sides stressed the need for expansion of bilateral trade relations.

It was agreed that economic delegations from the two countries exchange visits and that the joint economic commission formulate plans for expansion of economic relations.

Wardhana said that Indonesia is willing to export tea, paper, rubber and tin to Iran in exchange for Iranian light crude and non-oil goods.

Velayati said that Iran prefers direct trade with Islamic and Third World countries and looks forward to boosting its economic relations with Indonesia. Iran, he told the Indonesian official, can export light crude, carpets, pistachio nuts and dried fruits to Indonesia.

The Iranian foreign minister also expressed satisfaction with the upward trend in bilateral relations in recent years.

Meanwhile Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister in Charge of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Mojtaba Mir-Mehdi who is among the visiting delegation met with Indonesian Deputy foreign minister Tuesday, and reviewed regional and international issues with him.

Laos

Official on Resuming Search for MIA's
BK240710 Hong Kong AFP in English 0702 GMT
24 Feb 88

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 24 (AFP)-U.S. and Laotian officials will resume searching in Laos this year for the remains of U.S. servicemen missing since the Vietnam war, according to Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat.

Mr Souban also said in a recent interview here with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that of the 555 U.S. servicemen listed as missing in action (MIA) in Laos, the remains of 50 have been returned to the U.S. Government.

A U.S. source in the Laotian capital said that "fewer than 30" of the remains had been identified as being those of MIA's.

When asked if there are American prisoners of war in Laos, as some U.S. veterans' groups claim, the Laotian deputy foreign minister denied that "any American is being held" in his country.

"At the end of 1985, we conducted a general census with the help of the United Nations, and we didn't find a single American prisoner," he said.

Two "sets of bones," discovered in December and January at a site where two U.S. fighter planes crashed were turned over to U.S. authorities last week.

They have been sent to the U.S. identification laboratory in Hawaii.

Two Laos-U.S. excavations took place in southern Laos in 1985 and 1986.

Searches were suspended after that when relations between the two countries cooled.

Laotian-U.S. ties warmed up again after a U.S. delegation led by National Security Council member Richard Childress visited Laos in August. A technical meeting followed in November.

For the first time since the end of the war in Indochina, the United States has acknowledged the "legitimate humanitarian problems in Laos" and private U.S. organizations have been solicited for aid to the country.

For its part, Laos has agreed to unilaterally resume the search for MIA's.

More than 2,400 U.S. servicemen were listed as missing in action following the end of the Vietnam war, including 1,700 in Vietnam.

Activities of Thai Military Delegation

Meeting With Lao Counterparts
BK231359 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] This afternoon, the LPDR military delegation led by General Sisavat Keobounphan, chief of the General Staff of the LPA, and the military delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand led by General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Army commander in chief and acting military supreme commander of the Kingdom of Thailand, held a consultative meeting at the Lan Xang Hotel in Vientiane. The meeting lasted almost 2 hours.

After the meeting, Brigadier General Thonglai Kommasit, deputy chief of the LPA General Political Department and deputy head of the Lao military delegation, told the reporters about the atmosphere at the meeting:

[Begin Recording] [Thonglai Kommasit] The consultative meeting between the military delegations of both sides was conducted this afternoon in a profound atmosphere of fraternal understanding. The two sides reached unanimity on all issues. It is expected that (?tonight) the two sides will issue a joint press release on the outcome of the meeting. Currently, the technical teams of both sides are working on this document. (?We are very pleased with) the success of the official visit to Laos by the Thai military delegation led by Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Army commander in chief and acting military supreme commander of Thailand.

[Unidentified reporter] Can you explain the contents of the issues agreed upon or raised for discussion at the meeting today?

[Thonglai Kommasit] The consultative meeting touched on the outcome of the implementation of the agreement reached by the two sides in Bangkok on 17 February 1988. The two sides also consulted on continued efforts to implement this agreement so as to realize it as effectively as possible. Moreover, the two sides also expressed their initiatives to do everything to further promote and to firmly strengthen the friendship and mutual understanding between the peoples and Armed Forces of Laos and Thailand in conformity with the just aspirations of the peoples and armed forces of the two sides as well as the best wishes of all friends throughout the world. Both sides expressed hopes and pledged to each other that they would do everything to encourage their respective governments to hold consultations to settle the remaining border problem peacefully as soon as possible.

[Reporter] With regard to the joint operations by the joint military committee in the area where armed clashes broke out before, we know that as of today the operations have already been carried out for 5 days. Were these operations raised for discussion at the meeting and how were they assessed?

[Thonglai Kommasit] Yes, we raised them for discussion and assessed that the joint military teams of the two sides have carried out their duties together to the best of their abilities. As a result, the observance of the cease-fire and the separation of forces have been successfully carried out. In carrying out their duties, the joint teams are continuing to supervise the observance of the cease-fire and to look for the bodies of those killed on the battlefields. [end recording]

Brig Gen Thonglai Kommasit added that at the consultative meeting, in addition to raising many issues for discussion, the Lao side sincerely proposed that for the sake of a lasting friendship between the fraternal Lao and Thai peoples and to show the humanitarian feelings of the Lao Government and people, the Lao side is willing to release two Thai pilots captured by the Lao side in Boten District on 13 February during one of the clashes. They will be handed over to the Thai military delegation tomorrow.

Attending the meeting on the Lao side were Brig Gen Thonglai Kommasit, deputy chief of the General Political Department; Thongloun Sisoulit, special secretary of the chief of the General Staff of the LPA; Brigadier General Somlak Phommavong, assistant chief of the General Staff; Brigadier General Bounniam Kham-ouan, deputy chief of the General Logistics Department; Brigadier General Savai Sai-gnasena, head of the Office of the National Defense Ministry; Colonel Sathian Kasonsi, assistant chief of the General Staff; and Colonel Khammet Inpaseut, deputy head of the Office [of the National Defense Ministry]; and, on the Thai side, General Sunthon Khongsomphong, Armed Forces chief of staff; General Wanchai Ruangtrakun, deputy army commander in chief; General Charuai Wongsayan, Army chief of staff; General Phat Akkhanibut, Armed Forces deputy chief of staff; Lieutenant General Panya Singsakda, Armed Forces assistant chief of staff for operations; Lieutenant General Somkhuan Suwan, director of the Military Operations Directorate; and Lieutenant General Charan Kunlawanit, coordinator between the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry.

The reports also said that after arriving in Vientiane today, at 1000 this morning the Thai military delegation led by Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut visited a number of bases of production in Hatsaifong District, Vientiane Municipality. After the conclusion of the consultative meeting in the afternoon, the Thai military delegation was accompanied by Gen Sisavat Keobounphan on a tour to the Vientiane knitting cooperative at Khoun Phon Sa-at and to the That Louang Pagoda Temple. At the temple, Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut donated 10,000 baht of his personal money for use in renovating the pagoda. On this occasion, the Buddhist Reverend Pha Achan Maha Fong Samaleuk, vice president of the Lao Unified Buddhist Organization, presented a number of gifts to Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and his entourage.

Further Report on Meeting

BK240225 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, the LPDR military delegation led by General Sisavat Keobounphan, chief of the LPA General Staff, and the military delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand led by General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Army commander in chief and acting Armed Forces supreme commander, held a consultative meeting at Lan Xang Hotel in Vientiane on measures to promptly and fully implement the cease-fire agreement signed between both sides in Bangkok in order to further consolidate existing mutual understanding.

In the meeting, the two sides jointly reviewed implementation of the agreement reached in Bangkok on 17 February. They also discussed means to further step up bringing into full play the said agreement. The two sides expressed their intentions to promote and strengthen further and ever more profoundly and firmly the friendship and understanding between the peoples as well as between the soldiers of Laos and Thailand to meet the just aspirations of the peoples and soldiers of both sides as well as the best wishes of friends throughout the world. The two sides also pledged to do their best to forward proposals to their respective governments to hold talks to quickly settle the Lao-Thai border problem peacefully and in a correct and just manner in accordance with the 1907 French-Siamese Treaty and relevant maps.

Regarding the two Thai pilots, namely Wing Commander Somnuk Yiamsathan and Flight Lieutenant Phairot Paoprayun, who were captured by the Lao side during the clash in Boten District on 13 February, the Lao Government, military, and people have decided with pleasure to return the two pilots to the Thai side at the Thai side's request for the sake of time-honored fraternal friendship and for humanitarian reasons. The two pilots will be handed over to the Thai military delegation this morning.

Also attending the meeting on the Lao side on this occasion were Brigadier General Thonglai Kommasit, deputy chief of the Army General Political Department; Thongloun Sisoulit, special secretary to the chief of the LPA General Staff; Brigadier General Somlak Phommavong, assistant chief of general staff; Brigadier General Bounniam Kham-ouan, deputy chief of the General Logistics Department; Brigadier General Savai Sai-gnasena, head of the Office of the National Defense Ministry; Colonel Sathian Kasonsi, assistant chief of general staff; and Colonel Khammet Inpaseut, deputy head of the Office of the National Defense Ministry. Attending on the Thai side were also General Sunthon Khongsomphong, Armed Forces chief of staff; General Wanchai Ruangtrakun, deputy Army commander in chief; General Charuai Wongsayan, Army chief of staff; General Phat Akkhanibut, Armed Forces deputy chief of staff; Lieutenant General Panya Singsakda, Armed Forces

assistant chief of staff for operations; Lieutenant General Somkhuan Suwan, director of the Military Operations Directorate; and Lieutenant General Charan Kunlawanit, coordinator between the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the National Defense Ministry.

The meeting proceeded for almost 2 hours in a profound atmosphere of mutual understanding of fraternity.

On the same day, Gen Sisavat Keobounphan led Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and the delegation on a visit to some of the people's production bases people in Hatsaifong District, Vientiane Municipality. They also visited the Vientiane garment handicrafts factory and the That Louang pagoda temple.

Later that evening, beginning at 1930, Gen Sisavat Keobounphan hosted a banquet in honor of Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and his delegation. After the banquet, they watched performances staged by the central art troupe, the LPA art troupe, the central acrobatic troupe, and the central art and music school troupe. They also joined in the traditional Lamvong dance in a joyous atmosphere.

Courtesy Call on Phoumi Vongvichit

BK240534 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0500 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] This morning, Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the LPDR, received a courtesy call from the military delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand led by General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Army commander in chief and acting supreme commander of the Armed Forces. The delegation was accompanied by General Sisavat Keobounphan, chief of general staff of the LPA.

In the meeting, which proceeded in a warm atmosphere of fraternity, Phoumi Vongvichit expressed pleasure over the visit to Laos by the Thai military delegation. He also expressed satisfaction over the glorious success achieved by the Lao and Thai military delegations in the consultative meetings both in Bangkok and in Vientiane, the success of which will greatly contribute to the improvement and further fruitful development of the time-honored relations of fraternal friendship between the peoples of Laos and Thailand.

On this occasion, Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut also expressed thanks to the acting president for his warm welcome and pledged together to further translate into reality the agreement reached in Bangkok on 17 February 1988.

Niran Phanuphong, Thai ambassador to Laos, also accompanied the Thai military delegation in paying the courtesy call on the acting president.

Joint News Conference Held

BK241014 Vientiane KPL in English
0918 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Vientiane, February 24 (KPL)—General Sisavat Keobounphan, chief of General Staff of the Lao People's Army and General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Army commander-in-chief, and supreme commander of Thailand, held a press conference here this morning to report the success of the talks held in Vientiane by the Lao and Thai military delegations.

Diplomatic envoys and a great number of Lao and foreign correspondents were present at the press conference.

At the press conference, both generals informed the gathering that the sides at the talks were of unanimous views on all issues raised, namely, the assessment of the cease-fire and the disengagement of both troops as well as measures on the demarcation of the border between the two countries in accordance with the 1907 France-Siamese Treaty and related maps.

Both sides reaffirmed their aspiration to improve and consolidate further the relations of kinship between the Lao and Thai peoples, thus meeting the interests of peace, security and the well-being and prosperity of both.

The two generals also reaffirmed their readiness to do all they can to avoid future confrontation and killing of each other.

Both sides appealed to the Lao and Thai mass media to help publicize the joint statement and promote the Lao-Thai friendship and maintain such good relations for many generations to come.

Before the press conference was held, the military delegations of both countries signed a document on the return to the military delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand the two pilots of the Thai Air Force captured on February 13, 1988 at Nakok hamlet, village of the same name, Boten District, Lao Sayaboury Province. The signatories were Major General [tile as received] Thonglai Kommasit, deputy-head of the General Political Department of the Lao People's Army and Col. Gen. Somkhuan Suwan, chief of the Tactical Department of the Thai Army.

At noon, Gen. Chawalit Yongchaiyut and his delegation left Vientiane for Bangkok after a two-day successful visit to the Lao PDR.

Bidding farewell to the Thai delegation at Wattai Airport were General Sisavat Keobounphan, Major General Thonglai Kommasit, and Thongloun Sisoulit, special secretary of the chief of the General Staff, and other high-ranking officers.

Niran Phanuphong, Thai ambassador to Laos, and Thai Embassy staff were also present to see the Thai delegation off at the airport.

Joint Statement Issued

BK241100 Vientiane KPL in English
0908 GMT 24 Feb 88

["Joint Statement of Lao-Thai Military Delegations"—KPL headline]

[Text] Vientiane, February 24 (KPL)—In order to meet the good will and close relations of kinship between the Lao-Thai armies, a Thai military delegation led by General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Army commander-in-chief and supreme commander of Thailand, in response to the invitation of General Sisavat Keobounphan, chief of the General Staff of the Lao People's Army, paid a visit to the Lao PDR from February 23-24.

The Thai delegation was warmly welcomed in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and genuine affection. During his stay, Gen. Chawalit Yongchaiyut and members of his delegation paid a courtesy visit to Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao PDR. The cordial talk was useful and serving the interests of the Lao-Thai relations.

The Thai military delegation consisted of:

1. General Chawalit Yongchaiyut,
2. General Sunthon Khongsomphong,
3. General Wanchai Ruangtrakun,
4. General Charuai Wangsayan,
5. General Phat Akkhanibut,
6. Col General Somkhuang Suwan,
7. Col General Panya Singsakda,
8. Col General Charan Kunlawanit,
9. Major General (?Han) Bunprasoe,
10. Colonel Amonrat Chintakanon.

The Lao military delegation was made up of:

1. General Sisavat Keobounphan,
2. Major General Thonglai Kommasit,
3. Thongloun Sisoulit,
4. Major General Somlak Thammavong,
5. Major General Bounnian Kham-ouan,
6. Major General Savai Sai-gnasena,
7. Colonel Sathian Kesonai,
8. Colonel Met Sipaseut,

Both sides expressed their satisfaction over the results of the observance of the cease-fire and troops disengagement in the area between Thai Phitsanulok Province and Lao Sayaboury Province to the result and progress of which the military delegations will later inform their respective governments.

The two sides were satisfied with the success of the joint Lao-Thai military commission at the disputed area which is to supervise cease-fire accords until the negotiation on the settlement of the border problem through political means by the two governmental delegations shall be undertaken in the near future.

The Lao and Thai military delegations will consider ways and means to promote relations of kinship and the well-being of the Lao and Thai peoples.

On the basis of good will and sincerity, the Lao side returned the two Thai pilots to the Thai side.

To this effect, the head of the Thai military delegation thanked the Lao military delegation and promised to positively respond to the Laos' good will with sincerity.

The Thai military delegation once again expressed sincere thanks for the warm welcome by the Lao military delegation and people on this matter. The two sides agreed to reciprocate visits in the future.

[Dated] Vientiane 24/2/1988.

Military Commission Continues Consultations

BK240304 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Yesterday—the fifth day of the cease-fire—the joint Lao-Thai military commission continued its consultations at Meuang Phe village in Na Haeo District, Loei Province, Thailand, on the removal of landmines and the retrieval of the bodies of those killed in the fighting from the disputed area in Laos' Boten District, Sayaboury Province, and Thailand's Chat Trakan District, Phitsanulok Province after the two sides had completed separating their troops by moving them 3 km from their original positions to new points.

In the meeting, the two sides agreed to remove landmines from the disputed area through various measures, such as the use of demolition bombs and the use of bomb-sweeping machines—both by hand and [word indistinct]. At the same time, the two sides informed each other of details on the number of those killed at each point. To guarantee safety and to create conditions for the timely removal of the landmines, the two sides agreed to use planes and technicians of both sides to take part in the removal of the landmines and the retrieval of the bodies of the dead soldiers under the supervision of the joint military committee and with the coordination of each side's local officials. In places where favorable conditions prevail, each side is allowed to remove the landmines and retrieve the bodies of the dead soldiers by itself and then inform and hand them over before reporting the results to the joint military committee for acknowledgement.

The actual task will begin late this week.

Soviet Reception for Soviet Army, Navy Day
BK241210 Vientiane KPL in English
0851 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Vientiane, February 24 (KPL)—Yuriy Mikheyev and Lieutenant Colonel Nicolay Ivanovich Gololobov, respectively ambassador and military attache of the Soviet Union to Laos, yesterday gave a reception here to commemorate the 70th founding anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy.

Present at the reception were General Khamtai Siphandon, Politburo member of the LPRP CC, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of national defence, and commander-in-chief of the Lao People's Army; Phoun Sipaseut, Politburo member of the LPRP CC, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of foreign affairs; Saman Vi-gnaket, Politburo member of the LPRP CC, chairman of the Organizational Committee of the party CC, along with other high ranking military and civilian officials.

Diplomats and military attaches of the socialist countries in Laos were also present on the occasion.

Conference Held on Draft of Election Law
BK241139 Vientiane KPL in English
0846 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Vientiane, February 24 (KPL)—A conference on the draft of General Election Law was opened here yesterday under the chairmanship of Sisomphon Lovansai, Politburo member of the LPRP CC, acting-president of the People's Supreme Assembly.

The participants from state and public institutions are to study in depth and exchange views on the resolution of the Politburo concerning the nation-wide general elections, decree and instructions of the Secretariat of the LPRP CC on general elections, the law on the set-up of the People's Supreme Assembly, among others.

The conference will last one week.

Philippines

Two Russian Fishing Vessels Reported Held
HK231311 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 23 Feb 88 p 7

[Text] Camp Dangwa, Benguet (PNA)—Two Russian fishing boats and their crew were held by government authorities for questioning after they were intercepted by the Coast Guard off Sulvec, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur last Friday.

Maj. Alfredo Coyopan, duty officer of the Regional Command (Recom) headquarters here, said Constabulary reports from Ilocos Sur said Russian interpreters from the Coast Guard in La Union were requested to assist local authorities in their investigation.

The report did not specify the contents of the two fishing vessels nor the number of their crews.

Earlier, the report said, the Coast Guard also intercepted in the same area one Malaysian ship carrying logs bound for Japan.

Finding the ship carrying legitimate documents, the Coast Guard let it go on its voyage.

Probe of Russian Presence in Surigao Urged
HK240519 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0300 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Agusan Del Norte Representative Charito Plaza has suggested that the House Subcommittee on East-West Affairs conduct investigations into the alleged presence of Russians in Surigao.

According to Plaza, she has received information from PC officials in the province that some Russians have been frequently seen at the province's Nonoc Nickel Mining Company.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Visit Planned
HK231243 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 21 Feb 88 p 3

[By Marites Sison]

[Text] Igor Rogachev, Soviet deputy foreign minister for Asia and Pacific affairs, is planning to visit Manila this month or next to meet with top government officials, informed sources said yesterday.

The sources told the CHRONICLE that Rogachev had expressed his intentions to make the trip, but that although the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) was open to his request, it had not yet indicated the exact date when the Government can accommodate his visit.

Soviet embassy sources confirmed the planned visit of Rogachev, credited for paving the way for the gradual normalization of Sino-Soviet relations, in either of the months mentioned.

Rogachev initially asked to visit Manila last December but the DFA had to beg off because it was busy preparing for the third summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) hosted by Manila, the sources said.

Soviet Ambassador to the Philippines Oleg Mikhailovich Sokolov earlier disclosed Rogachev's planned visit to the country which, he indicated, was intended to initiate a "political dialogue" between Malacanang and the Kremlin on various security issues affecting the region.

Local observers have interpreted this move to be part of a package of diplomatic offensives being launched by the Soviet Union in preparation for the expiry of the RP-U.S. Military Bases Agreement (MBA) in 1991.

The MBA signed in 1947 provides for the setting up of 16 American military facilities including Clark Air Base and Subic Naval, the largest U.S. bases overseas. The agreement is up for review this year, and the Philippine Government has adopted a policy of honoring the MBA until 1991 and "keeping (its) options open" thereafter.

The Soviet Union has adopted the position that the U.S. bases here—which the U.S. claims are vital to regional security—are a deterrent to peace in the region. In a famous speech delivered in Vladivostok in July 1986, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev hinted that the Soviet Union would be prepared to pull out its forces at Cam Ranh Bay if the U.S. dismantled its bases here.

"In general, I would like to say that if the U.S. gave up military presence, say in the Philippines, we would not leave this step unanswered," Gorbachev said.

If pushed through, the political dialogue between Moscow and Manila would be the first ever since they opened diplomatic relations on June 2, 1976.

Earlier, Malacanang had announced President Aquino's acceptance of the invitation to visit Moscow but had left the exact date open.

Local observers also expressed the belief that this dialogue may be intended to wean the country's foreign policy away from its perceived dependence on the U.S., the Soviet Union's most important and No. 1 adversary in world politics.

Observers here have said the "bases factor" has always played a "major role in the determination of official Soviet policy towards the Philippines."

Rogachev's visit to Manila, embassy sources said, will be part of his tour of the whole region this year.

Senator Claims 'Grace Period' in Bases Pact
HK231001 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 22 Feb 88 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Philippine-U.S. military bases agreement will expire on Sept. 17, 1992 and not in 1991 as many people believe, according to Sen. Rene Saguisag.

Saguisag concedes, however, that his contention is just one of two schools of thought on the matter. The other view is that the agreement will automatically expire at the end of the 25-year term in 1991.

In an interview with the CHRONICLE, Saguisag explained that the exchange of notes between then Foreign Secretary Narciso Ramos and former U.S. Secretary

of State Dean Rusk in 1966 explicitly stated that the military agreement can be abrogated by one party one year after notice of expiration.

Clearly, Saguisag said, this means a one-year grace period that will start on Sept. 17, 1991, one day after the expiration of the 25-year-bases agreement.

The Constitution states that the military bases agreement will automatically be abrogated upon expiry in 1991. But Saguisag contended that the Ramos-Rusk exchange of notes was explicit about the terms.

While the contention in favor of the 1991 expiration may be upheld by the Supreme Court, Saguisag said no one can be certain if such position will be endorsed by an impartial body such as the World Court.

"My position here is that of a devil's advocate," he said. "I want to start a national debate on this because this is an important issue in the bases talks."

Saguisag said both the Philippines and the United States could bring the issue to the World Court for arbitration in case of differing interpretations.

The World Court may decide on the issue within a week's time, he said.

Saguisag argued that even if the Philippine Constitution had stated that the bases agreement would expire in 1991, no one can stop the other party from amending its constitution and setting a larger expiration date.

"The point of reference then should be the Ramos-Rusk accord, which clearly defines the expiration," he said.

He urged a full-blown discussion of this issue so that it could be settled as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, the Senate committee on defense and foreign relations will hold a joint hearing today on three pending anti-nuclear weapons bills.

Two of these would ban the manufacture, storage, distribution and use of nuclear arms in any part of the country.

The third bill seeks to establish a nuclear monitoring commission to implement the constitutional provision banning nuclear weapons here.

Group Launches Antigovernment Protest
HK241138 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television
Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan [New Nationalist Alliance] has launched a protest against the Aquino government. Several thousand workers and youths gathered in Cubao, lining up as far as Camp

Aquinaldo, to express their disgust over the government's failure to meet the expectations of the People's Power revolution. The intersection of Santolan Road and EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] was closed to traffic while the demonstration was going on. Antiriot police teams were on standby. The speakers discussed increased militarization, human rights violations, and U.S. interference. Some distributed NDF leaflets, encouraging the citizens to revolutionary action. Relatives of the MV Dona Paz and MT Victor collision victims also took part in the demonstration.

7,000 March in Left-Wing Manila Protest
HK241025 Hong Kong AFP in English 1008 GMT
24 Feb 88

[Text] Manila, Feb 24 (AFP)—Thousands of left-wing demonstrators took to the streets Wednesday and the banned Communist Party of the Philippines called for the overthrow of the Aquino government on the eve of its second anniversary.

Vice President Salvador Laurel also publicly criticized President Corazon Aquino ahead of the second anniversary of the "people's revolt" of 1986 that brought her to power.

About 7,000 left-wing demonstrators marched toward the suburban military camp at the center of the 1986 revolt, but were blocked by riot police, police and witnesses said.

"The Aquino government has failed the Filipino people," said a statement they handed out. "The Filipinos have yet to see a government different from the Marcos regime."

"Down with the U.S.-Aquino regime," said a placard carried by the marchers, who want an end to U.S. military and economic support for the government and demand the removal of two vital U.S. military bases in the country.

The banned Communist Party of the Philippines called for the overthrow of the Aquino government, saying it had made political, economic and social conditions in the country worse than under Mr. Marcos.

"It is but right and just to overthrow the puppet fascist U.S.-Aquino regime," said the party, which controls the 25,000-strong New People's Army.

Mr. Laurel said in a press statement that two years after the revolution, the country was still divided, the national leadership weak, and the promises of the "people power" revolt remained unfulfilled.

"We have to take a common stand on the issues that bedevil the nation today—the insurgency, worsening peace and order, social injustice, and widespread poverty, corruption and moral decline, and economic stagflation," the statement said.

"Only if we rededicate and recommit the entire nation to the massive task ahead can we hope to reverse the situation," the statement continued.

Mr. Laurel said election fraud continued under Mrs. Aquino, who has hosted a constitutional plebiscite and elections for congress and local governments in the past two years.

The U.S. Government meanwhile reiterated its full backing for the 55-year-old president, who has survived five coup attempts and who vows to end the communist insurgency in the four remaining years of her term.

In a press statement, U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt congratulated Mrs. Aquino on the anniversary, lauded her political and economic achievements and vowed continued U.S. support.

Mrs. Aquino has declared Thursday a national holiday to mark the end of the four-day revolt that overthrew the 20-year Marcos regime and propelled her to the presidency.

Mr. Laurel gave way to Mrs. Aquino as the opposition candidate for president in February 1986 elections which preceded the revolt on condition that they share power, but was gradually eclipsed by other Aquino aides.

After a coup attempt almost toppled Mrs. Aquino in August, he resigned as foreign affairs secretary and established ties with the right-wing opposition and military dissidents.

But he retained the vice presidency, making him the automatic successor to Mrs. Aquino if she dies, resigns or is permanently disabled.

Ramos Accused of Involvement in Coup Plot
HK231415 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1300 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The wife of a RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] officer charged that Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos was allegedly involved in the "God Save the Queen" coup plot, the first coup plot that attempted to topple the Aquino government.

The accusation was made by Mrs Marilyn Robles, wife of Navy Captain Rex Robles who is one of the suspects in the murder of labor leader Rolando Olalia. Speaking at a news conference, Mrs Robles claimed that her accusations were based on top secret documents.

Earlier, Secretary Ramos stated that RAM officers were hurling various charges against him in their campaign to discredit him publicly.

According to Mrs Robles, Ramos' involvement was allegedly contained in (Oplan [Operation Plan]-Kamia) which sought to overthrow the government of President Aquino. The "God Save the Queen" plot was discovered in November 1986 and led to a military revamp as well as dismissal of Juan Ponce Enrile as defense minister.

Mrs Robles also demanded a public hearing and investigation on the alleged involvement of her husband in the murder of former KMU [Kilusang Mayo Uno—1 May Movement] leader Rolando Olalia.

Aquino Says Ramos Innocent

*HK240727 Hong Kong AFP in English 0715 GMT
24 Feb 88*

[Text] Manila, Feb 24 (AFP)—President Corazon Aquino and Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos Wednesday dismissed allegations that he was part of an abortive military plot to topple her government in November 1986.

"I think we all remember that in November and especially before I left for Tokyo, it was General Ramos who had in fact revealed to us some of these plans," Mrs Aquino told reporters at the presidential palace.

"I hope they do not blame me for the seven coup attempts because I did not start them. We stopped them," Mr Ramos told the congressional committee on appointments, which was screening his appointment to the cabinet.

The allegation was made Monday by the wife of dissident Navy Captain Rex Robles, under house arrest for alleged involvement in the murder of leftwing unionist Rolando Olalia during Mrs Aquino's Tokyo visit.

The Olalia murder had been seen in leftwing circles then as an attempt to incite unrest, giving coup plotters an excuse to take over.

Marilyn Robles urged Mrs Aquino to probe Mr Ramos' alleged role in the plot, which was spearheaded by the Reform the Armed Forces (RAM), a now banned group led by junior officers that included Capt Robles.

Mrs Robles told reporters she had seen documents implicating Mr Ramos, then the Armed Forces chief of staff, in a plot called "God Save the Queen," meant to turn Mrs Aquino into a military junta's figurehead.

Mr Ramos has repeatedly said that he could have seized power for himself but remained loyal to Mrs Aquino during attempts to overthrow her.

The government television station, which aired portions of the appointments committee hearing, said Monday that Mr Ramos admitted having talked with the mutineers who tried to convince him to join them or at least not stop the plan.

Military insiders say the plot was aborted after tense negotiations between Gen Ramos and the plotters.

The RAM had teamed up with Mr Ramos in a military revolt that toppled Ferdinand Marcos from power in February 1986, but some of its members are now in hiding or in jail for involvement in coup attempts against Mrs Aquino.

"I have always been against a power grab of any kind. I think there could have been opportunities last February 1986, but knowing and being a part of our democratic society, that is out of my system," Mr Ramos said during the confirmation hearings Wednesday.

He earlier accused RAM of fabricating graft charges against him to block his formal confirmation to the cabinet.

Capt Robles in turn accused the defense secretary of orchestrating his arrest to deflect the corruption charges.

Ramos Denies Plot Role

*OW240921 Tokyo KYODO in English 0842 GMT
24 Feb 88*

[Text] Manila, Feb. 24 KYODO—Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos on Wednesday denied charges that he was involved in an alleged 1986 plot to topple President Corazon Aquino, who cleared him of the charges.

Appearing at the Congressional Commission on Appointments and the Senate Defense Committee, Ramos said the charges linking him to the "God Save the Queen" plot were allegedly hatched by members of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM).

"It is not that Ramos implements or perpetrates the coup plot but that ... I nipped the coup plot of an AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) group," he told the members of the commission who will decide on whether to confirm his appointment as defense chief.

Aquino told reporters at the Malacanang Presidential Palace it was even Ramos who revealed the plot and blunted it.

Ramos, who was then the Armed Forces chief of staff, told reporters later he was "invited" to participate in the plot but "declined" the invitation.

The accusation was made Tuesday by Marilyn Robles, wife of Navy Capt. Rex Robles, a RAM leader who is also being linked to last year's bloody coup attempt in August and the November 1986 murder of leftist labor leader Rolando Olalia.

Ramos said he discovered the plot November 7, 1986, three days before Aquino was to leave Manila for her state visit to Japan.

He said he warned "military adventurists" against going ahead with the plot that apparently involved a "surgical plan" to eliminate alleged leftists in government.

Olalia and an aide were murdered November 13, the day Aquino arrived from her Japan trip.

The plot was meant to remove suspected communist sympathizers and leftists in the Aquino cabinet but retain Aquino merely as a figurehead president.

Before leaving for Japan, Aquino said: "This queen does not want to be saved."

Later that same month, Aquino sacked Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, who is now the lone opposition in the Senate and the former boss in the Defense Department of most of the RAM leaders.

Capt. Robles and Air Force Lt. Col. Eduardo Kapunan, both linked to the Olalia murder and to the August 28 coup attempt that left at least 53 people dead, are being held under house arrest. Two other RAM officers linked to the murder are in hiding.

Ramos described Mrs. Robles' accusation as "a desperate wild card she's playing" to block the confirmation of his appointment.

Earlier, the leader of the August coup attempt, former Army Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, accused Ramos of corruption. This was also denied by Ramos who said the charges were meant to keep the heat away from the RAM.

RAM Leaders Placed Under 'House Arrest'
HK240931 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English
24 Feb 88 pp 1, 9

[By Jose De Vera]

[Text] The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has sought custody of leaders of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) under "military house arrest" for their alleged involvement in the murder two years ago of labor leader Rolando Olalia and his driver-bodyguard Leonor Alay-ay.

This was disclosed yesterday by NBI Director Jose Antonio Carpio who said he wanted to complete his interrogation of the RAM leaders before filing charges in court.

Sought by the NBI are, among others, Navy Capt. Rex Robles and Air Force Lt. Col. Eduardo "Red" Kapunan, who were intelligence and security officers of the Ministry of Defense when now Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile was still defense minister.

Robles and Kapunan were pointed to by Gilberto Galicia, a New People's Army (NPA) rebel recruited as a "deep penetration agent" by the defense ministry intelligence unit to secure information within the communist movement and its various labor, student, and peasant "front organizations."

Carpio said he wrote president Aquino to waive provisions of the Articles of War covering the "house arrest" or detention of military personnel by the Armed Force to enable the NBI to take physical custody of the RAM suspects and continue its investigation preparatory to filing charges against them.

Carpio had earlier written Gen. Renato S. de Villa AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, requesting the arrest of Robles, Kapunan, and others, despite the fact that they have long been under "house arrest" for their alleged involvement in the failed Aug. 28 coup.

Invoking provisions of Article 70 of the Articles of War, de Villa issued the arrest order but Robles refused to go with the arresting military officers, saying he has been under house arrest since six months ago.

Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, in interview with newsmen during the wreath-laying rites at the Libingan ng mga Bayan [Hero's cemetery] in Fort Bonifacio, last Monday, said that based on sketchy reports, it was agreed among the arresting officers and Robles and his lawyers that it is sufficient to put Robles under "house arrest": he must be placed under heavier guard.

The arrest order of De Villa, however, was relayed secretly to Robles, Kapunan, and others by a fellow RAM members. Robles thus prepared his position as he awaited the arresting officers.

For his part, Kapunan sneaked out of his "detention quarters" located just across Robles' house and stayed overnight with a RAM comrade.

The wife of Kapunan, who was asleep at the time, thought her husband had gone out early as usual to play golf, not knowing that her husband was with his RAM comrade.

When he learned from radio and newspaper reports that he had disappeared, Kapunan returned to his "detention quarters."

Kapunan also wrote a letter to Commodore Virgilio Manuel, the camp commander in Camp Aguinaldo, that he was inside the camp and had not gone underground but was avoiding newsmen who might "distort" his words.

When Kapunan showed up at the office of Manuel, it was reported as a surrender.

Fellow RAM officers said that Kapunan began fearing for his life since RAM boys were implicated in the Olalia murder.

They recalled that one of the RAM members, a certain Sgt. Sabalan, who was also implicated earlier in the Olalia case, was picked up and killed by armed men early this month in Novaliches with the military blaming his death on "NPA Sparrows."

Senate Committee Questions Ramos on Graft
HK240317 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos yesterday [23 February] appeared before the Commission on Appointments. The body, chaired temporarily by Senator Ernesto Maceda, delayed confirmation of the defense chief's appointment. However, the promotion of Eduardo Ermita from Major General to Lieutenant was confirmed. Besides Ramos, Armed Forces chief General Renato de Villa's appointment was also not confirmed yesterday. The two will continue to answer questions from senators today.

On the question of alleged graft and corruption, Secretary Ramos denied all the charges and explained his role as the president's security adviser. Whatever assets he has acquired, Ramos pointed out, were all earned above board. He said he and his wife's assets total P67 million, with liabilities of P1 million. Ramos answered other questions, including those on the vigilantes, but declined to comment on the issue of nuclear weapons here.

[Ramos recording indistinct]

MNLF Bid Said Not on Islamic Group's Agenda
HK240957 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
24 Feb 88 p 9

[By Reporter Cris V. Paraso]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos yesterday revealed verified reports from the military establishment's sources that the Moro National Liberation Front's bid for membership in the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) is "not included" in the March OIC conference.

However, the defense chief said, Government "should not be complacent" since the MNLF, taking advantage of such complacency, "might take an aggressive position," in effect causing "undue apprehension" among non-Muslims.

Testifying before the Commission on Appointments committee on national defense and security, Mr Ramos said both the Department of National Defense [DND] and the Armed Forces have prepared "contingency measures" in the event the armed Muslim rebels decide on a "confrontational stand."

Likewise, Mr Ramos said that as the Cabinet's coordinator for Region IX, he will constantly conduct dialogues with both local officials and congressmen representing the region regarding rehabilitation and development programs that Government is implementing for rebel returnees and civilians alike.

Mr. Ramos assured the committee that the Armed Forces "is winning" in the anti-insurgency campaign "military", in Regions IX, X, XII, and the National Capital region. However, he continued, the military is in an "unfavorable situation" in Region III, parts of Region I, and the Cagayan Valley.

The defense chief also said Government "would have to work fast" in its military and economic approach in Region VIII, particularly in Samar where the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front built "political struggle laboratories."

"Government should not concern itself in dealing with the insurgency problem using the military approach. Military operations must be complemented by a similar effort through the development-oriented approach," he stressed.

According to DND and AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] statistics, Mr. Ramos said, NPA rebels, numbering between 24,500 to 25,000, are operating in 20 percent of all barangaya in the country. Of this number, two-thirds are reportedly armed with high-caliber weapons.

Meanwhile, Senate President Pro Tempore Teofisto T. Guingona Jr., in a privilege speech, called on the OIC to respect the country's "national integrity" by allowing the Philippine Government to enact an organic law creating an autonomous government in the south—with the right to govern, dispense justice, and live within the frame work of an organic act—instead of a "secessionist approach" by the MNLF in asking for membership status in the OIC.

Sen. Guingona said recognizing the MNLF as an OIC member will disrupt, among others, the country's status quo and international peace since the nation affected by

the recognition "would seek the active support of other nations which may align themselves accordingly thereby resulting in international hostilities if not open war."

The OIC should not treat the MNLF in a similar manner as that of the Palestine Liberation organization (PLO) since the PLO's goals are directed at a "common adversary"—Israel, he said.

However, the Philippines has never been an enemy of the 48-member OIC; rather, the country has always been its friend and "no reason should exist why that friendship should not continue," he added.

"The Muslims in southern Philippines, including MNLF members are Filipino citizens...the OIC, particularly the Quadripartite ministerial Committee and the secretary-general, has faithfully adhered to the fundamental principles of international law or non-interference in the domestic or internal affairs of other states, non-use of force or the threat of force against others, and cooperation with all friendly states to promote peace and cooperation...We ask the OIC to let us live in peace—an honorable peace," Sen. Guingona said.

In a related development, Senator John H. Osmenia, in a letter addressed to House Speaker Ramon V. Mitra Jr., said the Regional Consultative Commission (RCC), in formulating an organic law, will create problems in administration organization, creation of revenue sources, ownership of ancestral domain and natural resources, and personal, family and property relations.

He added that the RCC's proposed organic law will create problems in regional, urban and rural planning development, economic, social and tourism development, educational policies, and preservation and development of the cultural heritage.

Sen. Osmenia said the Christian groups in the so-called "Muslim Mindanao" Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga City, Sultan Kudarat, South Cotabato, Davao del Sur, and Palawan—"will reject" the proposed organic law.

He suggested that a referendum be held in these areas to determine if the people in the affected provinces would want to be a part of Muslim Mindanao.

Group Asked To Deny Membership
HK240939 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 24 Feb 88 p 8

[Text] Senate President Pro Tempore Teofisto Guingona Jr yesterday asked the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) for "a better understanding" and desist from granting membership to the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

In a privilege speech, Guingona said the Muslim problem was an internal affair, stressing that its peaceful political solution must be formulated within the framework of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He said the Government's commitment to solve the problem under the Constitution continues.

"We have enacted a bill on the consultative commission, we are committed to enact an organic act within the prescribed period of 18 months," he said.

He also urged the MNLF to discontinue its plan to set up a provisional government.

"This Government has treated the MNLF and our Muslim brothers justly in the past," he said. "Neither separation nor secession nor the formation of another government is the answer. Blood is not the solution."

Guingona called for resumption of talks between the Government and the MNLF and other groups to achieve "an honorable peace" in Mindanao.

At the same time, Sen John Osmenia reiterated his position that the framers of the Constitution committed a "grave error in creating a fiction known as Muslim Mindanao."

This, he said, was a reaction to and an attempt at "appeasing a small minority of Muslims."

In a letter to Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr, Osmenia said seven of the 13 provinces which would comprise the autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao were not part of "Muslim Mindanao."

These are the provinces of Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Lanao del Norte, Davao del Sur, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Palawan and the Zamboanga City.

Osmenia had earlier voted against the bill creating the Regional Consultative Commission (RCC) which would draft an organic act on the Muslim autonomous region.

He foresaw the rejection of the organic law which Congress would pass by the seven "Christian provinces" he enumerated.

"The failure of either RCC to draft an organic act, of Congress to enact it and ultimately the inevitable rejection by the Christian provinces included in 'Muslim Mindanao' will result in bloodshed and turmoil," Osmenia warned.

He suggested that a referendum be held in the provinces and city identified in the RCC bill to find out if they would want to be part of the autonomous region of "Muslim Mindanao."

MNLF Expects Renewed Military Offensives
HK231003 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 22 Feb 88 pp 1, 8

[by Correspondent Carol Arguillas]

[Text] Indanan, Sulu—The Moro National Liberation Front said yesterday it expects the Aquino Government to launch renewed military offensives against its forces as a last-ditch attempt to thwart the rebel group's separatist moves.

The MNLF, however, has been preparing for any eventually, "and even war," Hatimil Hassan, MNLF vice chairman said. He admitted that the rebel group has been stockpiling firearms, setting up checkpoints in MNLF-controlled areas, and training more guerrilla forces to resist the military's moves.

Interviewed in the MNLF camp here, Hassan told the CHRONICLE that "if ever there will be a war, it will be started by the Philippine Armed Forces."

Hassan's statement came in the wake of Government moves to block the MNLF's bid for membership status in the 48-member Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), of which it has an observer seat.

Hassan said there was "no way" the Aquino Government can block the MNLF's membership bid in the OIC because "the Marcos and Aquino governments betrayed not only the MNLF and its people but also the OIC itself."

The OIC was first called upon by then president Marcos in 1973 to assist him in dealing with the MNLF problem. The OIC was witness to two agreements forged by the Philippine Government and the MNLF—the Tripoli Agreement of 1976 and the Jeddah Accord of 1987.

Marcos did not implement the Tripoli Agreement but set up regional autonomous governments instead. The Aquino Government, on the other hand, is now organizing the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) which would assist Congress in drafting an Organic Act for autonomy in Muslim Mindanao as mandated by the Constitution.

The MNLF does not recognize this provision. "Coming up with an RCC is even worse than what Marcos did," Hassan said.

Hassan added the Government should not consider the OIC membership as "the hottest issue" now.

"The OIC issue is merely incidental," he said, "the issue is our independence."

De Villa Denies Offensive Planned
HK240923 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 24 Feb 88 p 8

[By correspondent Carol Arguillas]

[Text] Zamboanga City—Gen. Renato S. de Villa, Armed Forces chief of staff said Monday no military offensive was being planned against the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

"There is no such planned action for as long as the ceasefire (between the Government and the MNLF) holds," De Villa said.

If any offensive would be undertaken, it would be directed against the New People's Army, he indicated.

De Villa came here the other day to meet officers of the Southern Command [southcom] for an assessment of the Mindanao situation.

It was his first trip to a major field command since he took over the helm of the Armed Forces.

The MNLF claimed Sunday that the Government would launch military offensives against its forces as a lastditch attempt to stop the rebel group from its separatist moves.

De Villa said there were reports of some movement by the MNLF in Mindanao, but that the Southcom was "keenly observing" the situation.

On the reported MNLF plan to set up a provisional government, De Villa said the Southcom was "watching the developments" closely.

"Southcom would know how to act," he said without elaboration.

For his part, Maj. Gen. Cesar Tapia, Southcom chief does not foresee the MNLF winning its bid for membership in the Organization of Islamic Conference because "they do not qualify, they are not a state and they are only a minority within the nation."

On the possibility of the MNLF setting up a provisional government, Tapia said. "It is possible they will do it to make legitimate their existence. Revolutionary groups usually do that."

De Villa rallied Southcom officers and troops to "hit at the source of the disturbance of the peace and order, specially in areas where there are enemies of the state," referring to the New People's Army.

He urged the soldiers to seize the initiative and go on the offensive against the NPA. "We cannot gain victory by being on the defensive."

From here, De Villa was to have proceeded to Davao City for another conference but the plane carrying him and other officers developed engine trouble 15 minutes after take-off. The plane had to return to Zamboanga City.

Islamic Body Said Backing Armed Struggle
HK231235 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 22 Feb 88 pp 1, 8

[By Staffmember Sonora R. Ocampo]

[Text] Muslim leaders were allegedly advised by the 48-member Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to take up arms against the Government for disregarding the 1976 Tripoli Agreement a Muslim leader who requested anonymity said yesterday.

He said he had received a copy of the OIC resolution urging Muslim leaders in the country to respect the Tripoli accord or engage in an armed campaign against the Aquino government.

"We were asked to support (Nur) Misuari in their fight for an autonomous Mindanao," the source said. "The OIC even asked us to take up arms, if possible, because of the Government's continued failure to implement the 1976 Tripoli accord," he added.

The source failed to clarify, however, if the OIC specifically asked them to support the secessionist bid of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). But he said the rebel group has gained wider international support because of the non-implementation of the Tripoli agreement signed in 1976 under the auspices of the Quadripartite Commission of which the OIC is a member," the source said.

The 'CHRONICLE' tried, but failed, to contact Manila Ambassador to Washington Emmanuel Pelaez for reaction.

Pelaez served as the chief government negotiator in the failed autonomy talks with the MNLF last year.

Last Saturday, Pelaez belittled the MNLF's renewed propaganda offensive, branding it as "overblown." He said that the MNLF had been issuing threats against the government.

"This is not the first time they have threatened to set up a government or wage a full-blown war. They have been threatening us left and right, that's an old song," she said.

The MNLF is at present waging a diplomatic campaign to gain full membership in the OIC where it has an observer status. The OIC is expected to consider the MNLF application when it meets in Amman, Jordan on March 21-25.

An MNLF official, Datu Rey Ibrahim Uy, said Friday that 35 of the 48 OIC members, including King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, support their bid for full membership, while government officials reportedly remain divided on the issue.

Speaker Ramon V. Mitra Jr., along with Reps. Michael Mastura (Maguindanao), Abdusakur Tan (Sulu) and Amado Bagatsing (Manila) are now in the Middle East to step up the government campaign to block the MNLF bid.

The congressional leaders are expected to try to dissuade King Fahd and OIC Secretary-General Syed Shariffudin Pirzada from accepting the MNLF application.

Yesterday, Rep. Ali Dimaporo (Lanao del Sur) joined some Philippine ambassadors to Middle East countries in urging the Government to fully implement the Tripoli agreement.

"This will prove the sincerity of the Aquino Government to peacefully settle the Mindanao conflict and prevent the OIC from granting the MNLF full membership," Dimaporo told newsmen in a press conference.

He added, "This will stop the foreigners from entering the picture because no Arab country will still support Misuari after this gesture of sincerity by the Government."

Dimaporo echoed the position of Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Alunan C. Glang that the Tripoli accord should be accepted by the Aquino government as a "fait accompli" and thus should not be tied to the Constitution.

The Peace commission, headed by Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon, had maintained that the Tripoli accord be carried out within the framework of the new Constitution.

This Government position had been one of the reasons the 90-day autonomy talks between the MNLF and the Government collapsed last year.

The Philippine negotiating panel, headed by Ambassador Pelaez, pushed for a plebiscite in the 23 Mindanao provinces, citing a constitutional provision that the grant of autonomy be subjected first "to democratic process."

The MNLF negotiating team, led by Habib Mujahab Hashim, deputy foreign relations officer of the organization, projected the government proposal, insisting that the Tripoli accord be implemented without constitutional constraints.

Today, the MNLFs, aside from the diplomatic offensive, is engaged in "grass-roots building" in the 23 Mindanao provinces in preparation for the declaration of Mindanao as an independent Muslims state.

Last Saturday, another MNLF official, Ustadz Zain Jali, said that the MNLF may set up a provisional government in Mindanao even without waiting for the grant of membership in the OIC.

Jali said the provisional government could be set up "anytime now," and would cover the 23 provinces of Mindanao, Sulu and Palawan.

New Vigilante Groups Formed in Pampanga
*HK171452 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 15 Feb 88 pp 1,8*

[By Dave Veridiano]

[Text] San Fernando, Pampanga—A newly formed anti-communist group swore Saturday to fight "tooth for tooth, bullet for bullet" communist rebels in Central Luzon.

In a clandestine meeting in this province, some 30 members of the "Angelino Simbulan Brigade (ASB)" told the INQUIRER they have declared an "all-out war" against New People's Army rebels in the province.

A spokesman for the group—named after the San Fernando deputy police chief killed by rebel hit men last Feb 6—said the ASB will be the counterpart of the Alex Boncayao Brigade, the NPA urban hit squad in Metro Manila responsible for killing more than 130 soldiers and policemen in daylight ambushes last year.

The spokesman, who identified himself as Andres Santos Bondoc, said the ASB was born a day after Simbulan was buried. They captured, tortured and killed one of Simbulan's assassins and vowed to collar the other suspected assailants.

"We have identified them (rebels), we have enough information on their whereabouts, and we will surely get them," said Bondoc, who like many in the group, was dressed like a businessman, but was armed with a .45 calibre pistol.

Bondoc said they tortured the suspected rebel to obtain information on his companions' whereabouts, shot him dead then dumped him near the Saint Jude church here.

He said they left a cardboard sign on the body inscribed with "This man is one of Simbulan's killers. He was killed by the Angelino Simbulan Brigade, a new anti-communist movement," but that when the body was found, no mention was made of the message.

San Fernando policemen told the INQUIRER an unidentified man who was "apparently salvaged" was found dead near the Saint Jude Church last Feb 11. When questioned about the cardboard sign however, the police said, "Wala kaming alam diyan. [We know nothing about it.]"

The military claims Pampanga rebels killed 107 people, of which half were civilians, last year. Twenty-nine were military men, 19 policemen, and three American servicemen.

Bondoc said the ASB, whose "civilian volunteers" number about 200, is funded and armed by "peace-loving people in Pampanga who are fed up with the terroristic activities and heavy taxation being imposed on the town's traders by the NPA guerrillas."

Some 30 ASB members met the INQUIRER in a warehouse, a corner of which was piled with high-powered firearms—machine guns, Armalite rifles, grenade launchers, and other weapons. Throughout the interview, jets roared overhead from Clark Air base, about 10 kilometers away.

The vigilantes allowed the INQUIRER to photograph some ASB members but refused to have their arsenal photographed.

Most of the members present were dressed like businessmen in polo shirts and sports t-shirts. A few sported military-style haircuts while others, who allowed themselves to be photographed only with masks, wore jeans and rubber slippers.

The group complained mainly about the forced taxation of civilians conducted by the rebels, saying: "Kahit salesman at truckdriver, tinatax. Kapag hindi ka nagbabayad, sinusunog ang trak. [Even salesmen and truckdrivers are being taxed. If you don't pay, they burn the truck.]"

"Nigipin sa ngipin, tingga sa tingga ang gagawin naming paglaban sa kanila. Nasa likod namin ang mga mamamayan dito sa Pampanga, [We will fight them tooth for tooth, bullet for bullet. The people of Pampanga are on our side,]" Bondoc said.

The vigilantes complained that law enforcers cannot battle communists properly because "their hands are tied to human rights law." During the interview, the ASB members referred to human rights as "human-Left."

Of 21 elected town mayors in Pampanga, they said, only two mayors-elect are "truly fighting the communists." The others, they added, were even supported by the rebels.

The group said they have obtained information that these elected pro-rebel mayors will be assassinated after six months in office to give way to their "totally left-leaning vice mayors."

An ASB member with a .45 automatic handgun tucked into his waistband said, "We are respectable citizens of this town who have grouped together to protect our law enforcers from being annihilated by the rebels."

At the end of the interview, the ASB members told the INQUIRER: "This is your first and last interview. The next time you try to come here you might be followed."

Another Vigilante Group Set Up
HK231405 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English
23 Feb 88 pp 1, 14

[by Jerry Lacuarta]

[Text] San Fernando, Pampanga—Another anti-communist vigilante group has been formed to fight the New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Pampanga.

Called the "Citizens' Army (CA)," the new group was set up by incumbent local officials and some former Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) mayors in a meeting here.

Earlier, a group of Pampanga businessmen reportedly organized the Angelino Simbulan Brigade (ASB) to fight the NPAs "bullet for bullet."

The brigade was named after Maj. Angelino Simbulan, San Fernando deputy police chief, who was shot dead by NPA hit men at his small restaurant on MacArthur Highway in Barangay San Nicolas here last Feb 6.

During the meeting, the incumbent and former Pampanga mayors patched up their political differences and forged a tactical alliance in a bid to rid the province of NPA rebels.

Some of them ran against each other in the Jan. 18 local elections. It was their first meeting since the fall of Marcos regime in February, 1986.

Maj. Alvino Alba, Pampanga PC-INP deputy commander for civil military operations, was reported to have said that about 800 members of the disbanded Civilian Home Defense force (CHDF) will serve as the "core" of the new vigilante group.

Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano Jr., PC chief and director-general of the Integrated National Police, earlier told newsmen at Camp Olivas that Pampanga is "the most critical area" in Central Luzon because of the presence of the American military and civilian personnel in the province.

Meanwhile, Maj. Enrique Galang, Camp Olivas spokesman, told newsmen that Recom [Regional Command] 3 officials led by Brig. Gen. Cesar Nazareno "do not sanction" the formation of armed vigilante groups in the region.

Camp Olivas authorities predicted that the activation of armed vigilante organizations will "trigger senseless killings" reminiscent of premartial law Pampanga.

"We don't want to go back to days when the Monkees and the Beatles wrought havoc in Pampanga," they said.

The Monkees were the military-backed hit men who fought in the late '60s the communist-led Beatles belonging to the Hukbong Magpapalaya ng Bayan (HMB) [People's liberation army], an old dissident movement then led by Faustino del Mundo, alias "Commander Sumulong."

Civilian Body To Administer Police Forces
HK240507 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0400 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Congressmen and military officials have agreed on the need to create a civilian commission to administer the police forces. The commission will be under the authority of the president's office. A consensus on this issue was reached by the congressmen and the military after yesterday's hearing in the House Committee on Public Order and Security, which sought to return police action to the control of local officials. Four constitutional commissioners signified their agreement on the matter of having a career military man, not a politician, as the head of the commission.

Poll Results in 146 Precincts Said Invalid
HK240319 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The Commission on Elections declared the failure of the elections in 146 precincts in 20 provinces. This is due to various irregularities, ranging from ballot snatching and terrorism to heavy fighting among followers of mayoralty candidates in the January 18 local polls. However, the Comelec will not schedule special elections in these areas unless it is decided that the poll results in those precincts could affect the overall outcome of the voting on the provincial and municipal levels. The Comelec's Barangay Affairs Department, led by Lawyer (Desamito), will find out if a special election is necessary in those areas. Commissioner Alfredo Abueg Jr said that of the 120 precincts where election failures were proven, 5 precincts in (Silinolobos), Northern Samar, will hold special polls on Monday.

Aquino's Brother To Give Up Party Post
HK231315 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 23 Feb 88 p 7

[Text] Rep. Jose Cojuangco Jr. (Tarlac) yesterday said he will not seek reelection as president of the Pilipino Democratic Party-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban) [Pilipino Democratic Party-Strength of the Nation] when his term ends in October.

"My term ends in October and by October, I will not aspire for the (party) presidency anymore," Cojuangco told Malacanang reporters.

"I think she likes that," he added, referring to President Aquino's earlier statements that she wants her relatives to relinquish control of political parties.

Cojuangco, widely held as influential over Mrs. Aquino in political matters, said he went to Malacanang and discussed with the President "small matters, (with) no political dimensions."

He assured that Mrs. Aquino will keep off the election of PDP-Laban officers. "No, never, as a matter of fact, she is still maintaining the position of being non-political."

Cojuangco clarified that his belief was "to leave to the different provinces what type of agrarian reform would suit them."

He charged that media had misquoted him earlier when it reported that he was for a 24-hectare retention limit. "That is not my proposal," he said.

According to him, "agrarian reform is the upliftment of the living conditions of the people, and at the same time, protecting the agricultural economy."

He said that despite the program, the country must "make sure that we will produce enough food for our people...(and) not disrupt the productivity of agricultural lands."

Thailand

Chawalit's Lao Visit Ends in Pilots' Release

Improved Atmosphere Noted

BK240220 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
0000 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] A Public Relations Department correspondent reported from Vientiane yesterday that Thai Ambassador to Laos Niran Phanuphong held a news conference to report on the fate of the two Thai pilots held in custody by Laos. According to the ambassador, the Lao military has reported that the two pilots have been well cared for by the Lao authorities. The two pilots are in good health. Thai officials have not seen the two Thai pilots.

Ambassador Niran also disclosed that the general atmosphere has greatly improved since the Thai and Lao military delegations reached agreement. Both the Soviet and Vietnamese Embassies welcomed the news of the cease-fire and the peaceful negotiations to follow. The ambassador said that political negotiations between Thailand and Laos will be held within 15 days of the cease-fire and might be completed within 15 days. He believed that officials in charge of the negotiations would rank lower than the foreign ministers, but that the joint statement will be signed by the foreign ministers or officials at the same level.

Topics of Discussion Reported

BK240115 Bangkok THE NATION in English
24 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[By Phongsak Srisot]

[Text] Vientiane—Laos yesterday agreed to release two Thai air force officers after a meeting here between the two countries' military chiefs.

The two Thais will arrive in Bangkok at 11.30 [0430 GMT 24 February] this morning with Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, army commander in chief, and other Thai delegates returning from the two-day visit.

Brig Gen Thonglai Kommasit, deputy chief of general staff of the Laotian armed forces, said Laotian authorities will hand them over to Chawalit in a ceremony to be held here at 9 am.

"Laos decided to return the Thai crewmen upon a Thai request and for humanitarian reasons," said Thonglai.

Military sources said Premier Prem Tinsulanon was informed last night about the Laotian decision.

The pilot and co-pilot, identified as Wing Commander Somnuk Yiamsathan and Flight Lt Phairot Paoprayun, were captured after Laotian gunners shot down their Thai air force OV-10 prop-jet at the disputed border area near Romklao village of Phitsanulok.

Chawalit and Gen Sisavat Keobounphan, chief of general staff of the Lao People's Army, yesterday held talks to settle the border conflict, and to seek an exchange of prisoners of war held by both countries.

Thonglai said the two military chiefs also discussed future military cooperation between the two countries.

During the more than one-hour discussion, the Lao side asked Thailand to speed up the shipment of 12,000 tons of rice to be sent to Laos under the UN Development Programme's assistance, said the sources.

They said about 8,000 tons are being kept in Sri Chiang-mai district of the Thai Nong Khai province, while the rest is in Chiang Khong district of Chiang Rai, awaiting to be transported across the border.

Exchanging hugs and greetings as they did in their peace talks in Bangkok last week, Chawalit and his entourage were greeted by Sisavat upon their arrival at Vientiane's Wattai Airport yesterday morning.

Sisavat later escorted the Thai delegates to visit Wat Phra That Louang, an ancient temple in Vientiane, and to observe Laos agricultural and medical projects in the Vientiane suburb of Hatsaifong.

However, about 60 Thai and foreign reporters, who accompanied Chawalit on this trip, were separately taken to Santiphap Hotel to rest.

The two army leaders last week worked out a cease-fire and troop withdrawal that ended nearly four months of border fighting, in which an estimated 700 troops from both sides have died.

Thai and Laotian troops had battled for rugged, remote hills on the border between the Thai northern province of Phitsanulok and Laos' Sayaboury province.

Both sides Sunday completed pulling back troops three kilometres from battle lines. The withdrawal left the Laotians behind Heuang Nga river, which Bangkok said is the correct borderline.

Chawalit also met Laotian President Prince Souphanouvong, who Vientiane said is on a temporary leave of absence because of illness.

Military sources said the Thai army chief, whose wife is a distant relative of the Laotian "Red Prince," invited Souphanouvong to visit Thailand on March 23.

The sources quoted Souphanouvong as telling Chawalit that he had to consult with his personal doctor first before accepting the invitation.

Chawalit today will pay a courtesy call on Phoumi Vongvichit, Laos' acting president, before holding a press conference with Sisavat on the result of the military talks.

The Thai military team includes Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, armed forces chief of staff, Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakun, deputy army commander in chief, Gen Charual Wongsayan, army chief of staff and Gen Phat Akkhanibut, armed forces deputy chief of staff.

At the club of a state-run Vientiane construction company, Thai and Laotian military officers exchanged toasts over a Laos-hosted lunch, enlivened by foreign whiskey and wine.

The Thais were served with rare jungle dishes, including fried ant-eater meat and grilled barking deer, along with sticky rice, a typical Lao staple food.

"Thai and Laotian people later will be able to exchange visits freely across the border," said Chawalit, who gave the Laotians 100 transistor radios and 99 pens in return.

The two delegations held official talks in the afternoon at Lan Xang Hotel on the Mekong riverbank, overlooking Sri Chiangmai district of Thailand's Nong Khai province.

An official Laotian Radio broadcast hailed the meeting, and said both sides talked in a friendly atmosphere.

After the discussion, Sisavat told reporters that Laos is willing to return the Thai captives to Thailand without any condition.

Niran Phanuphong, Thai ambassador to Laos, said high-level talks between the two countries' governments will be held soon.

Both governments are waiting for the result of the Vientiane military talks, he said.

Negotiations might be held at two levels—between the two countries' Foreign Ministers or Deputy Foreign Ministers, he said.

Chawalit initially planned to stay in Laos for only one day, but later decided to extend his visit. The reporters, who were flown to Vientiane in an air force plane and told to leave the communist country yesterday, were also allowed to spend the night here.

Joint News Conference Held

BK241400 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
1200 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Army commander and acting supreme commander, and party have returned from the visit to Vientiane, which began on 23 February. They arrived in Thailand this afternoon accompanied by the two Thai pilots who had been held in Laos. Phaithun Hiranpradit, a Public Relations Department correspondent who was a member of the media delegation accompanying the Army commander, reported that this morning Gen Chawalit and General Sisavat Keobounphan gave a joint news conference.

[Begin Chawalit recording] First of all, I wish to say that we came here [Vientiane] at the invitation and kindness of His Excellency Gen Sisavat Keobounphan. The affection and closeness between Gen Sisavat and myself need not be mentioned here because you, the correspondents, have already seen it for yourselves.

The purpose of my visit is to follow up on the agreement made during Gen Sisavat and his delegation's visit to Bangkok last week. We received the greatest honor when we had the opportunity to pay respect to His Excellency Prince Souphanouvong, whom you, the correspondents, already know is my uncle. You probably realize how meaningful it is for me to have the opportunity to pay my respects to my elderly relative. In addition, my delegation had the greatest honor of paying their respects to his excellency the acting Lao president and deputy prime minister [Phoumi Vongvichit] this morning. The correspondents covering the visit have witnessed his great kindness toward us. In particular, he emphasized what we have been trying to create, which is love between the brotherly people on both sides of the Mekong River. He stated, for us to hear clearly, that it is impossible to separate the friendship, bonds, and affection between us.

I regard this as the greatest honor. The purpose of our delegation's visit was to review how the agreement, which was reached with sincerity and seriousness on both sides, has been implemented and whether there are any problems. It appears that everything has proceeded smoothly—no problems at all. Everything that needed to be solved has been done at every level with confidence and love between brothers and with a desire to create permanent love. There is no problem whatsoever in anything. Another thing that I wanted to discuss with his excellency and every honorable official concerned was how we can achieve the elimination of fighting between our two countries. Simply speaking, how can we establish durable peace?

It seemed uncanny that when I first met Excellency Gen Sisavat and his delegation, our feelings were identical, as if prearranged. For this reason, the discussions on the search for durable peace between our two countries are the major goal of our present visit. Both sides spoke in a spirit of understanding based on brotherly love, which is the greatest of all love. This is the common view of both sides, which will seek the best means to accomplish this spirit in the future. And I expressed hope to Gen Sisavat that we will be able to accomplish it.

Moreover, on the current visit, the LPA, the Lao Government, and the head of the Lao delegation in particular, have shown kindness and awareness of the need to create mutual understanding and trust. They have expressed faith in this need by returning our two pilots to Thailand and to the waiting arms of their families. Everyone is awaiting this gesture, which I do not have words to describe. I can only say that we understand Gen Sisavat's great spirit, goodwill, and desire to be friends of the Thai people. I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone concerned. [end recording]

After Gen Chawalit ended his statement, Gen Sisavat, chief of the LPA General Staff said:

[Begin Sisavat recording] Today, the LPDR military delegation is very proud to have welcomed His Excellency Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and his party who have brought us the friendship and affection of the Thai people as well as the profound friendship of the Army of the Kingdom of Thailand for our LPA. Based on the spirit of brotherliness that has existed since ancient times, the two delegations have discussed with each other more details on the successful implementation of the agreement on the observance of the cease-fire and the separation of forces. [end recording]

VOFA Optimistic on Future Lao Relations
BK220943 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia
in Thai 1030 GMT 19 Feb 88

["Article": "Mekong, River of Peace, Friendship, and Bonding Between Thai and Lao People"]

[Excerpts] History once again records the friendship and fraternal relationship between the Thai and Lao people after talks between the Thai and Lao military delegations

concluded on 17 February. The talks resulted in a decrease in the fighting between Thai and Lao military forces near Ban Romklao and a cease-fire that began at 0800 on 19 February. This will gradually reduce tension along the Thai-Lao border to return to the status quo.

Before the visit of the Lao military delegation led by General Sisavat Keobounphan, educated observers and the media in general were skeptical that the talks between the Thai and Lao military delegations would yield any concrete results because neither side showed any sign of compromise. Each side was firm in its stand that its country owned the disputed territory. However, from the moment the Lao military delegation arrived at the Bangkok airport, it was accorded a friendly welcome by the Thai military delegation. Coupled with the fact that the Lao delegation appeared sincere about the talks, the atmosphere of the 2-day meeting was warm. During the meeting, both sides used their respective languages but understood each other well. This phenomenon could not happen anywhere except between Thailand and Laos. The meeting culminated in a four-point joint statement. [passage omitted]

Thailand and the Thai people have always regarded Laos and its people as brothers with whom the Thais have had long, close fraternal relations. Disputes are normal between countries having a contiguous border, and in the past Thailand had always tried to resolve disputes with Laos through peaceful means. The talks just concluded between the Thai and Lao military delegations proceeded on this basis. The fact that the two delegations came to an agreement proves the sincerity of both sides in solving their common problem, and the immediate benefit is an end to their brave soldiers' dying. This naturally will please soldiers' relatives and families.

The meeting between the Thai and Lao military delegations corresponds to the policy and desire of the Thai Government and people. This policy seeks to avoid armed confrontation with Laos in view of the continued fraternal and friendly relations with Laos. Thailand wants to promote these relations constructively. Good relations between the Thai and Lao people certainly will benefit both in the long run. Thailand is confident that the agreement between the Thai and Lao military delegations will steadily improve the situation along the common border in the interest of the coming negotiations. The four-point agreement will be the first step in paving the way for political negotiations to eliminate the border dispute. The negotiations will be based on the law, what is right or wrong, and sincerity toward each other. Thailand strongly hopes that the coming political negotiations will proceed in the spirit of understanding based on fraternal relations. Thailand also hopes the negotiations will justly and fairly eliminate the outstanding disputes in the interest of the Thai and Lao people's happiness, thereby contributing to peace and security in the region. If this is achieved, the Mekong River will be

not only a river of peace and friendship, but also a river binding the Thai and Lao people. This is what the leader of the Thai military delegation wishes.

Academics, Journalists View Lao Border Dispute
BK240159 Bangkok THE NATION in English
24 Feb 88 p 5

[By Peter Mytri Ungphakon]

[Text] Recent Thai-Lao conflict was the outcome of mishandling, misinformation, internal rifts within the Thai government and military—and even misappropriate military purchases—three academics and a journalist said yesterday.

As the dust settled on the Romklao conflict and Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut started his talks with Laotian counterparts, probably the first public meeting to discuss the recent fighting was organized yesterday by the Social Science Association at Chulalongkon University's Political Science Faculty.

Panelists paid tribute to Thai soldiers who had lost their lives.

But they painted a picture of conflict arising from illegal logging interests—complicated by the presence of Hmong and other groups opposed to Vientiane—that got out of hand because of bungling and rivalries.

And the audience of about 200 academics, students, officials, politicians and members of the public, heard repeated warnings that at this delicate stage of diplomacy, the Foreign Ministry has let itself be eclipsed by the army.

Also under fire was the former prime minister, M.R. Khukrit Pramot, for his comments reported yesterday advocating stronger military action against Laos.

M.R. Sukhumphan Boraphat, director of Chulalongkon's Institute of Strategic and International Studies, said the conflict started with vested interests and poor diplomatic relations between the two countries, and became violent because of Thai internal splits over the succession to Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon and between the more conservative and liberal factions of the military.

Sukhumphan described Chawalit as the victim of repeated, unjust accusations from the right wing of the military ever since taking over as Army commander in chief two years ago. As a result, he said, Chawalit is viewed inaccurately by some as a communist, because of his "unconventional" analysis of Thailand's problems and readiness to compromise.

But this rift also meant that the best qualified army officer, Gen Phichit Kunlawanit, was not given command of the fighting at Romklao, he said. Sukhumphan declined to elaborate.

He said one of the outcomes of the conflict is that Prem's position as prime minister remains secure and the problem of the succession "remains in the icebox", with implications for Thai foreign policy and for the parents who will continue to lose their children in battles such as Romklao.

The Foreign Ministry had been shown to be impotent, reflecting the "leadership" in the ministry who had resorted to "emotion" rather than "reason". As a result, the ministry was by-passed in recent negotiations. In his references to the Foreign Ministry's "leadership", Sukhumphan did not mention Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila by name. Other panelists, and some members of the audience, did, particularly Sitthi's outburst when the Laotian ambassador met Chawalit a few months ago.

NATION journalist Kawi Chongkittawon was one among several who criticized the Foreign Ministry for adopting an arrogant stance towards Laos.

He described how ministry officials had been confined to the second floor during last week's military peace talks in Bangkok, and how junior officials had been required "to walk up and down outside in order to remind people that the ministry was there."

Surachai Sirikrai, dean of Thammasat University's Political Science Faculty, argued that the Thai government had not bothered to understand how Laotians see their relationship with Thailand.

For example, as far as the Foreign Ministry and the military in Bangkok are concerned, the dispute over the three border villages that erupted in 1984 is over. But, he argued, Laotians complain that Thai troops are still on Laotian territory in the area, and that only 40 per cent of the population of the villages was returned after Thailand conceded that the villages were indeed Laotian.

The Thai response to these complaints creates the impression in Vientiane that Bangkok is "cold."

Only during the Kriangsak government, in the late 1970s, had relations with Laos been good, he said.

Kraisak Chunhawan, social scientist at Kasetsart University, said Thailand's policy towards its neighbours has always been to intervene and destabilize. This, he said, is demonstrated by support for or tolerance of Burmese minority groups, sanctuary provided for Laotian and Kampuchean refugees, and support for Laotian and Kampuchean opposition groups.

He argued that changes in Thai economic and social structure could change attitudes. As Thailand becomes more industrialized, he argued, business will prefer to be able to trade with the Indochinese states and will oppose more illicit types of trade. From the point of view of business, he argued, the Indochinese states ideally ought to be agricultural suppliers and consumers of Thai manufactures.

Former Deputy Foreign Minister Wong Phonninon, who was in Vientiane recently when former Prime Minister Kriangsak Chamanan reportedly helped negotiate a ceasefire, joined in the criticisms of how Bangkok perceives Laos.

Laotians are honest and easy to talk to, he said, but the Foreign Ministry had not bothered to make any contact or to try to understand them during the past seven or eight years.

He would not discuss his talks in Vientiane.

Reportage on Visit by Malaysian Prime Minister
BK231458 Bangkok Domestic Service
in Thai 1300 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] At 1000 today the visiting Malaysian Prime Minister [Dr Mahathir Mohamad] paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon at the Famui Room of the Chiang Mai Orchid Hotel in Chiang Mai, where they met privately for about 1 hour. The two prime ministers then joined the Thai and Malaysian delegations for a meeting in the Lanna Thai Room. Thai delegates participating in the meeting included: Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila, foreign minister; Suli Mahasanthana and Arun Phanuphong, ministers attached to the Prime Minister's Office; General Prachuap Suntharangkun, interior minister; Montri Phongphanit, commerce minister; Pramuan Saphawasu, industry minister; Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, secretary general to the prime minister; Kasemsamson Kasemsi, permanent secretary for foreign affairs; Michai Wirawai-thaya, government spokesman; Sarot Chawanawirat, Foreign Ministry spokesman; and other officials. The Thai and Malaysian delegations consisted of approximately 20 members each. The Malaysian prime minister led the Malaysian delegation.

The meeting ended at about 1200. Reporting on the meeting, the government spokesman said Malaysia agreed to allow Thai products destined for Singapore to transit Malaysian territory without inspection as was previously done. The Thai side thanked the Malaysian prime minister and said Thailand would reciprocate by making a special purchase of 5,000 tons of Malaysian palm oil. Regarding Malaysia's 3-month waiver of Thailand's use of nonplastic containers for selling fish in Malaysia, it was agreed at the meeting that the 3 months will not be considered a waiver period, but that unlimited time will be allowed for talks on the matter. To

promote tourism, each country will allow the appropriate private sectors to operate independently and fully, and without obstruction. Further, Malaysia will provide conveniences to Thai tourists traveling by car. Regarding the production of spare parts for Mitsubishi automobiles produced by both countries, the two countries will consider tax privileges to enable the exported cars to compete in foreign markets. The government spokesman added that the Thai prime minister has asked Malaysia to show more sympathy for Thai fishermen violating Malaysian waters by expelling them rather than arresting them as before. Malaysia was also asked to support the Thai candidate for director of the International Rubber Institute.

Tourist, Fishing Industries Discussed
BK231354 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1
in Malay 1200 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Malaysia and Thailand have agreed to cooperate to further promote and encourage the tourist industry for mutual benefit. The agreement was reached during talks between Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir and his counterpart, General Tun Prem Tinsulanon, in Chiang Mai today.

[Begin Radzi Ismail recording, reporting from Chiang Mai] The acting secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Datuk Razali Ismail, said that several strategies will be mapped out to achieve the goal, including more frequent air service between Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok and flights between Phuket and Langkawi. The two leaders also agreed to coordinate the public and private transportation network to facilitate an orderly movement of people, particularly along the border. The private sector, particularly tourist agencies, will continue to receive encouragement. Joint-venture group tours will be recommended to attract more tourists from Europe, Australia, and Japan to the region, particularly to Malaysia and Thailand. Thailand asked Malaysia to help facilitate transportation and the transfer of goods on the border and to Singapore. In return, Thailand agreed to import palm oil from Malaysia.

In the fishing industry, the two countries asserted the need to establish a committee to resolve any problems, including the imposition of fishing laws.

Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir and his counterpart, Tun Prem Tinsulanon, expressed satisfaction over the success of the existing bilateral cooperation.

This afternoon, the prime minister visited agricultural projects and the Huai Hongkrai Royal Research Center near Chiang Mai. He was accompanied by Tun Prem and other members of the delegations. In a separate program, Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah, wife of the prime minister, visited silk and umbrella factories. She was accompanied by the wife of Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila. Meanwhile, the prime minister's visit to Thailand has received wide coverage by the local press and television and radio stations. [end recording]

Both prime ministers also expressed satisfaction with the progress of Malaysian-Thai cooperation. The two leaders had held a private meeting earlier.

[Begin Radzi Ismail recording] The meeting between Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir and Gen Tun Prem Tinsulanon took place in an intimate and open atmosphere. The last time the two leaders met was in Kelantan in September of last year when they jointly launched the deep-sea fishing program. This meeting provided both sides an opportunity to review their respective roles in previously agreed areas of bilateral cooperation. Later, Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir and Gen Tun Prem chaired a meeting between their delegations. Among the issues raised were the fishing issue, cooperation in promoting tourism, efforts to eradicate drug activities, palm oil exports, and the manufacture of vehicle components. The Thai delegation consisted of Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Dr Arun Phanuphong, Interior Minister Gen Prachuap Suntharangkun, Commerce Minister Mr Montri Phongphanit, and Industry Minister Mr Pramuan Sabhavasul. [end recording]

Narcotics Control Briefing Held
BK240720 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
0530 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Excerpt] At 0830 this morning Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon escorted Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Mahathir Mohamed and his wife to a briefing by Police Major General Chaowalit Yotmani, secretary general of the Office of Narcotics Control Board [ONCB]. The briefing took place in the Chang Kra Room of the Chiang Mai Orchid Hotel. After the briefing, Gen Chaowalit told correspondents that the Malaysian prime minister has a great interest in the narcotics problem, and that he chaired an international conference on narcotics problems last year. The narcotics problem is widespread in Malaysia, where it is considered a national security issue.

Chaowalit said the briefing today explained the Thai Government's four measures. The first measure, the most important, is prevention. This includes educating youths about the menace of drugs. The second measure concerns treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. The third measure deals with encouraging hilltribe people to practice crop substitution. The fourth measure is suppression through close cooperation with ASEAN and the 14 countries having representatives in Thailand. According to Chaowalit, the briefing also described the terrain in the Golden Triangle area to explain why cultivation of narcotic crops persists despite earnest preventive and suppression measures.

After the briefing, the two prime ministers took a helicopter to the Thai-German Highland Development Project in Ban Doi Chang of Mae Saruai District in Chiang Mai. The West German project is joined by the Interior, Agriculture and Cooperatives, Public Health,

and Education Ministries to promote cultivation of profitable crops as substitutes for poppy. The project is coordinated by the ONCB. The project covers 420 square km in 65 villages with a total population of 9,994 Akha and Lahu tribesmen. The project's development, forest preservation training, and crop substitution efforts have increased the income of the local people to the extent that they no longer need to cultivate narcotics crops. Gen Prem also took the Malaysian prime minister to visit a hilltribe assistance unit. [passage omitted]

Greater Bilateral Cooperation Sought
BK241239 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
1203 GMT 24 Feb 88

[By L.D. Baptist]

[Text] Chiang Mai, Thailand, Feb. 24 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Thailand and Malaysia both recognise the urgent need to intensify cooperation and nurture greater understanding between the two countries in order to develop a brotherly relationship rather than one of only good neighbourliness.

This was seen as a significant outcome of the regular talks here Tuesday between Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and his Thai counterpart, General Prem Tinsulanon as part of their regular consultations to enhance bilateral ties.

Thai Foreign Ministry permanent secretary, Kasemsamson Kasemsi said there was a meeting of the minds between the two government leaders who wanted to see greater contacts and exchanges between the two countries.

He told BERNAMA: In spite of the fact that there is a strong relationship, the people just take all of this for granted.

There ought to be closer relationship at the senior level as well as at the operational level in all endeavours be it agriculture, fishing, trade or tourism.

During their informal talks, both leaders expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved in Thai-Malaysian cooperation in the automotive industry and prospects for further development and voiced eagerness to promote tourism on both sides.

Kasem said another significant result was that both sides no longer viewed things in a materialistic way, where one side gains and the other loses.

He felt both sides were now trying to do more for each other within their limits and this augured well for Thai-Malaysian relations as well as ASEAN as a whole.

Kasem predicted a busy year ahead in bilateral relations marked by the launching of the Malaysia-Thailand Joint Commission which held its inaugural meeting in Kuala Lumpur early this month.

The commission was formed last June to coordinate all aspects of relations between the two countries, except those under the purview of the General Border Committee.

Kasem said the commission, co-chaired by the two foreign ministers, would maintain close contact with each other and although it would normally meet once a year there was provision for either side to call for a meeting if there was an urgent matter which required attention.

Mahathir Wednesday visited an opium crop substitution project in Chiang Rai, about 300 km north of here, to get a first hand look at Thailand's efforts in eradicating opium cultivation.

In the afternoon, Tourism Authority of Thailand governor, Thammanun Prachuapmo, briefed him on Thai efforts; followed by attending an exhibition of Thai traditional and hilltribe handicrafts.

Mahathir then visited the Al-Taqwa Mosque and Islamic school where some 150 Muslim students are learning the Koran from a computer donated by Malaysia.

Last year, Mahathir donated M\$50,000 (about US\$20,000) to the Islamic Social and Economic Development Foundation of Thailand which was used to buy eight computers, one of which was sent to the school.

Wednesday night, Mahathir and his wife, Dr. Siti Hasmah will be guests-of-honour at a dinner hosted by Gen. Prem.

Vietnam

Vo Van Kiet Speaks to Newsmen on Renovation
BK231410 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Dear friends: At the New Year get-together with the comrade leaders of the press in Ho Chi Minh City on the occasion of the Vau Thin Tet, Comrade Vo Van Kiet, member of the Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers expressed some opinions concerning our current renovation undertaking.

Comrade Vo Van Kiet said: Renovation is currently a matter of life and death for socialism in general and especially so for us. However, in 1987, the first year of implementing renovation for which the resolution of the sixth party congress has laid the foundation, life once again taught us that we cannot succeed with only halfway renovation. Comrades, you still recall that following the resolution of the party Central Committee's second

plenum, we applied a number of measures to achieve the four reductions. But, a few months later the Central Committee quickly realized that some of these were only half-measures that not only failed to help improve production but also further prolonged the confusion in the distribution and circulation of goods.

The errors committed during the past several years have left very serious consequences. When thinking of the past, we cannot help but feel uneasy because we have missed some opportunities and wasted existing potentials and capabilities for boosting economic development. We have missed many chances to do business and have endured poverty for an unnecessarily long time. That is why time is now priceless indeed, when we compare our own situation to the rate of development in other countries around us. Renovation is a long process, but this should not be an excuse for us to act in a sluggish, leisurely manner.

The press in various countries is saying that today Asian nations are gradually extricating themselves from the yoke of poverty and backwardness that has been their burden for thousands of years. The experience of some countries has shown that if an economically backward country wants to advance in the world of today it must seek foreign investment capital. We should get closer to, and gain a more correct understanding of, the world of today. Simplistic and isolated ways of thinking about independence and sovereignty would definitely keep the country forever within the vicious circle of hunger and poverty. The recently promulgated Law on Foreign Investment was a concrete step forward in precisely this direction. Of course, a great many specific issues remain to be solved, but our Law on Foreign Investment has been favorably received by international opinion, thereby creating the possibility of broadening business relations for economic development.

As all of you already know, the question of institutionalizing and implementing the party's correct policies concerns everybody. In this first quarter of 1988, the state will promulgate the regulations on management of state enterprises and policies concerning the collective, individual, family, and private economic components that are designed to release all productive capabilities to bring fully into play all of society's productive potential. Also in this 1st quarter we will promulgate a system of policies on agricultural production including forestry, fishery, and various economic components in agriculture. At the same time, we will issue administrative documents to implement the law on investment. We will create favorable conditions to attract capital from foreign investors as well as to draw capital from various economic components for local commercial banks.

With these institutionalizing efforts, this year we will carry out notable and relatively uniform renovation of the mechanism of economic management, covering some pressing matters which many sectors and localities are waiting for. Of course, the quick switch of economic

activities to the system of socialist accounting and business will not have any immediate impact on life this year, but such a shift will really encourage everyone to make an effort in productive labor with the understanding that if the people are rich, the country will be strong. It will fully show the capability and the true business efficiency of various economic establishments and will tear apart the subsidization veil that has for a long time concealed untold economic activities characterized by fictitious profits and real losses. This will also permit a more accurate evaluation and commendation of economic units, thus preventing the awarding of medals to those localities whose achievements were made possible by state subsidies or by false reports.

To bring about such a metamorphosis we, of course, need not only uniform change in the economic field but also intensive and uniform changes in many other areas, for example, separating the state's administrative management from production and business management and returning autonomy in production and business to economic units. It is necessary to restructure the assignment of cadres, especially economic cadres, to ensure that they are fully capable and qualified to carry out business effectively, even if they may not yet have party membership. The organ in charge of cadre organization and management must also undergo renovation.

The activities conducted by the internal affairs, customs, public security, court, inspection, and other sectors must also change in a timely manner to meet the requirements for developing the economy and we must rapidly do away with inconvenient procedures—deplorable hurdles we ourselves set up—that are, in no small measure, affecting our work.

In the fields of ideological work and mass information, it is all the more necessary for us to take the lead in contributing to the renunciation of obsolete ways of thinking and to creating conceptual and emotional changes to promote and fully support renovation.

The party Central Committee's fourth plenum resolution continues to affirm the policy of promoting the production of commodities that was unequivocally defined at the sixth party congress with the aim of producing wealth in large quantities to rapidly extricate the economy from the current state of stagnation. I think that our city has inherent strengths and much experience in this regard; and we must know how best to exploit these strengths in accordance with the rules governing the production of commodities.

At present, the issue of cadres is of decisive significance. We must change our ways of assessing a person's qualifications and disregard his past, provided that he now has full rights as a citizen. We must encourage, respect, and treat equally all those who are capable of, and meet the conditions for, participating in the production of commodities; we must develop their talents, and correctly assign them to the positions they deserve. Only by

so doing can we produce wealth with which to constantly improve the people's material and cultural life. In my opinion, this is an important point of our class stand. A class stand is not an abstract idea nor, for that matter, is it something inimical to man that spreads poverty equally among all.

Emulation Drive Signed With the Soviet Union
BK241438 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] With the aim of strengthening the Vietnamese-Soviet friendship and labor emulation movement to fulfill the 1988 State Plans, the Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions [VCTU] and the Soviet Embassy in Vietnam recently signed an agreement on key orientations and principles for organizing the 1988 international socialist emulation movement. Attending the signing ceremony were Comrade Pham The Duyet, secretary of the CPV and chairman of the VCTU; Kachin, Soviet ambassador to the SRV, Secretariat members of the VCTU, representatives of central sectors and branches, and officials of the Soviet Embassy.

The Vietnamese-Soviet friendship emulation movement is designed to integrate efforts by Vietnamese cadres and workers and Soviet specialists on various cooperation projects to triumphantly fulfill all plan norms, assure the quality of projects, save materials, reduce expenses, maintain work schedules, enhance the effectiveness of Vietnamese-Soviet economic cooperation enterprises, develop vocational training by Soviet specialists, and satisfactorily settle social problems of Vietnamese workers.

In 1988, the international socialist emulation movement in Vietnam will be organized in two phases. The first phase is aimed at scoring achievements to commemorate Lenin's birthday, President Ho Chi Minh's birthday, May Day, 30 April—marking the liberation of South Vietnam—and the 19th All-Union CPSU conference. The second phase is aimed at fulfilling the 1988 State Plan to commemorate and welcome the SRV National Day, the 10th anniversary of the SRV-USSR Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, the Sixth VCTU Congress, the 71st anniversary of the Great October Revolution, and the CPV National Conference of Delegates [Hooij Nghij Dqaij Bieeur Dqangr Toanf Quoocs Dqangr Coongj Sanr Viectj Nam].

Military Attache Hosts Soviet Army Celebration
BK231644 Hanoi VNA in English 1536 GMT
23 Feb 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 23—Rear-Admiral M. Parfentiev [spelling as received], Soviet military attache to Vietnam, today gave a banquet marking the 70th Soviet Army and Navy Day (Feb. 23).

Soviet Ambassador to Vietnam D.I. Kachin was present at the reception.

Among his Vietnamese guests were Nguyen Co Thach, Politburo member of the party Central Committee, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs; Col. General Doan Khue, Politburo member of the party Central Committee and chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army; Nguyen Quyet, secretary of the party Central Committee and head of the General Political Department of the V.P.A.; Hoang Bich Son, member of the party Central Committee and head of its International Department, and other senior party and state officials.

Members of the diplomatic corps here were also on hand.

In his address, Rear-Admiral M. Parfentiev spoke of the achievements of the Soviet Army and Navy over the past seven decades, particularly those obtained in the present process of comprehensive restructuring in the Soviet Union. He also brought out the noble internationalist obligations of the Soviet Army and Navy in safeguarding socialism and world peace.

For his part, Col. Gen. Doan Khue praised the victories of the Soviet Army and Navy over the past 70 years and expressed his profound gratitude to the party, state, people and Armed Forces of the Soviet Union for their great assistance to the Vietnamese people in their national construction and defence.

Czechoslovak Envoy Holds News Conference
BK231642 Hanoi VNA in English 1529 GMT
23 Feb 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 23—Czechoslovak Ambassador to Vietnam Miroslav Kapoun called a news conference here today on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the February Revolution of his country (Feb. 25).

It was attended by Hong Chuong, chairman of the Vietnam Journalists' Association, Phan Quang, vice-minister of information, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the party Central Committee's International Department, and Vietnamese and foreign reporters.

Taking the floor, the Czechoslovak ambassador said that inspired by the spirit of the February Revolution, the Czechoslovak people, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (C.P.C.), have over the past four decades obtained great achievements in socialist construction and national defence. Today, he went on, the Czechoslovak Communists and people are striving for the materialization of the socio-economic objectives laid down by the 17th C.P.C. Congress, particularly for the elimination of all negative phenomena in the party ranks, the state apparatus and the society at large.

He expressed his joy at the fine development of the friendship and cooperation between Czechoslovakia and Vietnam, describing this as effectively contributing to the revolutionary cause of each country and to the interests of the two peoples.

Meeting Marks Anniversary
BK221556 Hanoi VNA in English 1505 GMT
22 Feb 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 22—A mass meeting was held in the port city of Haiphong today in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the victory of Czechoslovakia's February Revolution (Feb. 25).

Present at the function were Le Danh Xuong, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and secretary of the city party committee, and representatives of the Vietnam-Czechoslovakia Friendship Association.

Czechoslovak Ambassador to Vietnam Miroslav Kapoun was also on hand

The same day, an exhibition on Czechoslovakia's economic, cultural and social achievements was opened in the city.

Border Town Recalls 1979 Chinese Invasion
BK221538 Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT
22 Feb 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 22—Dong Dang, a town built in a small valley just south of the Sino-Vietnamese border in Lang Son Province, has always been an attraction. Its main occupation is vegetable gardening, a speciality which began with the arrival of the French many years ago. Cabbage and many other exotic vegetables grown in the valley are extremely good, and customers come from many parts of the country for their seeds.

During French occupation, Dong Dang was an important garrison town. A fortress was built there, commanded by a French lieutenant. The town was also known as a major gambling centre. Its casinos were frequented by players coming from as far as Hanoi and south China.

In 1950, Dong Dang was liberated. That was during a border operation conducted by the Vietnam People's Army in conjunction with the southward march of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. The town was reopened for cross-border trade and visits.

Soon after the complete liberation of North Vietnam in 1954, the border gate, which guarded the northern approach to the town, and which had been called "Muc Nam Quan" (Eye on the South), was renamed "Friendship Pass." Rail and road traffic through this point was heavy.

In February 1979, Dong Dang was taken under attack by a 600,000-strong Chinese invasion army which was flooding all the six provinces on Vietnam's northern border.

During a visit to Dong Dang just before the Year of the Dragon, we called on Ly Sang, 50, secretary of the local committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and one of the best vegetable gardeners.

Ly Sang said Chinese troops broke into the town in the small hours of February 17. "Few of us had thought a Chinese attack would be forthcoming although we had been instructed to get ready," Ly Sang recalled. "This town had been very friendly to the Chinese for many years".

Ly Sang remembered firing a few shots before retreating under the onslaught of a great mass of Chinese troops. Holding his rifle with one hand and with the other, clutching his two-month-old daughter to his breast, and with his wife leaning against his back, Ly Sang made for Con Khoai, a strategically situated cave where he mustered a small militia force and put up a fight. "That was a bloody fight," Ly Sang recalled. "We killed many Chinese but also lost several of our men".

In Ly Sang's company, we called on Sao Ky, 80, who, though blind, still had a very good memory. Sao Ky, together with more than four hundred other inhabitants of the town, had been captured and taken to China where they were detained for a long time.

Despite the hard time he had with the aggressors, Sao Ky bore no ill feeling toward the Chinese people. He liked to speak of old days when only friendship existed between the two peoples. To show how much he knew about China and its culture, Sao Ky also read to us, in Chinese and out of memory, long passages of the well-known Chinese classic "Pilgrimage to the West".

Sao Ky was particularly enthusiastic about trade exchanges. "But that doesn't mean that we need Chinese products more than they do ours," the old man explained. "We like Chinese consumer goods, like thermos flasks, cotton quilts and dry batteries. But the Chinese put a premium on the special kind of anise essential oil which we have here and for which we're seeking outlets in Hong Kong and Japan. We have also good tobacco and many kinds of fruit. Seedless tangerines from our gardens are exported to the Soviet Union".

Sao Ky's view about relations with China was shared by Le Xuan Mai, 40, secretary of the party in Cao Loc, the district in which Dong Dang is situated and which borders on China on eighty kilometers. Le Xuan Mai, however, approached the matter more cautiously.

Le Xuan Mai noted that since the beginning of 1988, five groups of Chinese spies had intruded into Cao Loc. All were captured. Credit for the capture of the last group

went to Phon, a woman of forty. Phon and her daughter were reaping rice when a group of strangers came up and asked for a place to rest. Phon told her daughter to take them home and feed them. The spies were about to sit down for the meal when the militia broke in and put them under arrest. "The Chinese authorities remain very hostile to us although all of us here—the Nung, the Tuy and the Zao alike are for normalized relations," Le Xuan Mai stressed.

We left Dong Dang by Highway 1. The road still bore scars of Chinese shellings nine years ago. The portion of railroad that runs through the town was in disrepair. But beyond, the valley was green with vegetables and fruit trees. Spring was in the air.

Jurists Attend New Delhi Lawyers Conference
BK220928 Hanoi VNA in English 0702 GMT
22 Feb 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 22—A delegation of Vietnamese lawyers led by lawyer Phan Anh has attended the Second Conference of Asia-Pacific Lawyers recently held in New Delhi.

The conference discussed the lawyers' responsibility and their role in the struggle for disarmament, development and human rights in the region.

The conference's final statement praised the struggle of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea against U.S. imperialism, considering it an important contribution to the defence of human rights and a valuable experience for all nations in the region.

The conference called on the concerned parties to solve the Kampuchea issue by peaceful means through negotiations. It hailed the meeting between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk as a great contribution to the defence of peace in Asia and the Pacific.

ESCAP Executive Secretary Pays 2-Day Visit
BK191523 Hanoi VNA in English 1440 GMT
19 Feb 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 19—S.A.M.S. Kibria, executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, (ESCAP) and special representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations in charge of humanitarian aid to Kampuchea, paid a visit to Vietnam from 15-16 February on his way to the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

While here, S.A.M.S. Kibria discussed with Vu Khoan, assistant to the foreign minister, questions of common concern. On 15 February, he was received by Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister.

NHAN DAN Marks Indochinese Countries Summit
BK230847 Hanoi VNA in English 0713 GMT
23 Feb 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb 23—Marking the fifth anniversary of the first summit conference of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea held in Vientiane, the national daily NHAN DAN today calls for constantly raising the efficiency of the special relations among the three nations.

In a frontpaged commentary, the daily says :

"In the light of the documents adopted at the Vientiane summit conference, the militant solidarity and all-round cooperation between Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea have further developed in scope and in depth, thus bringing about inspiring achievements in the national construction and defence of each country."

"In face of the imperialist and reactionary forces' attempts to regain their lost positions," NHAN DAN recalls, "the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea, always upholding their vigilance and militant solidarity, have foiled all the enemy's sabotage activities and their scheme to divide the three Indochinese peoples, and obtained important successes. The economic and cultural cooperation between Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea on the basis of equity and mutual benefits has also broadened in various forms, thereby contributing to promoting production and improving the living standards in each country. Every year, many bilateral or trilateral agreements on economic and cultural cooperation have been signed for the construction of friendship and cooperation projects, and the efficiency of this cooperation has continually been upgraded. In the spirit of renovation, their all-sided cooperation, particularly in the economic domain, is being deepened with initial results."

The paper goes on :

"On the international arena, the cooperation between the three Indochinese countries, and that between them and the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have over the past years developed constantly. With their good will and sincerity, the three fraternal countries have put forth many peace initiatives, making positive contributions to the common struggle for peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the world as a whole. Particularly, the Kampuchean Government's policy of national reconciliation and its five-point political solution have opened a breakthrough to the Kampuchean stalemate in the past nine years and enjoyed warm support and high appreciation the world over. The first and second rounds of talks between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Paris have made a good start for the dialogue on a solution to Kampuchea."

NHAN DAN says in conclusion that "the achievements obtained by the three Indochinese countries in their multi-faceted cooperation have effectively contributed

to the economic and cultural restoration and development and the defence reinforcement of each country and consolidated their revolutionary position and strength. Realities have proven that the special relations, militant solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea painstakingly cultivated and fostered by President Ho Chi Minh and the parties and peoples of the three countries will remain forever a valuable asset and a law of existence and development for the revolution of each country and a powerful strength which no enemy can break."

Nguyen Van Linh Greet Bangladesh CP Leader
BK231549 Hanoi VNA in English 1525 GMT
23 Feb 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.23—General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nguyen Van Linh has sent his warmest congratulations to Saifuddin Ahmed Manik on his election as General Secretary of the Bangladesh Communist Party Central Committee.

The Vietnamese party leader wished his Bangladesh counterpart success in implementing the resolutions of the 4th Congress of the Bangladesh Communist Party.

"May the solidarity and friendship between the parties and peoples of Vietnam and Bangladesh be further enhanced in the common struggle for national independence, democracy, and social progress in Asia and the world," the message said.

CPV Sends Greetings to Spanish Party Congress
BK190443 Hanoi VNA in English 1548 GMT
18 Feb 87

[Text] Hanoi, VNA Feb 18—The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam has extended its warm greetings to the Spanish Communist Party [SCP] on the occasion of its 12th congress.

The message of greetings said : "Over recent years, the Spanish progressive forces have united in overcoming many trials and in implementing their common tasks of struggling against the reactionary policies of monopoly capitalism, for Spain's withdrawal from NATO and for the dismantlement by the United States of all its military bases in Spain, for the fundamental rights of the working people and for peace and security in Europe.

"We would like to express our solidarity with and strong support of the just struggle of the communists, the working class and the peace-and justice-loving forces of Spain. We hope that your 12th congress will help strongly consolidate your party, thus actively contributing to the unity of the communists and democratic forces in the struggle for a peaceful, independent, democratic and progressive Spain."

"May the solidarity and friendship between the CPV and the SCP be further consolidated and developed," the message concluded.

Central Committee Greets Paraguayan Party
BK190435 Hanoi VNA in English 1546 GMT
18 Feb 87

[Text] Hanoi, VNA Feb 18—The Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee has sent a message of greetings to the Communist Party of Paraguay (CPP) on its 60th founding anniversary.

In its congratulatory message, the CPV CC expressed its sincere gratitude toward the communist party and the democratic and progressive forces of Paraguay for their heartfelt support to Vietnam in its revolutionary cause. It also expressed the wishes for new successes to the CPP and for further consolidation and development of the solidarity and friendship between the two parties and peoples.

Editorial Urges Improved Goods Circulation
BK201443 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
4 Feb 88, pp 1,4

[Editorial: "Vigorously Accelerate the Circulation of Goods"]

[Text] Production and circulation are organically inter-related. Production is the base that decides circulation. Yet, circulation in turn has a positive impact on production by either promoting or restraining production. It is necessary to resolve the problem of goods circulation with a view to the vigorous development of goods production. The rapid acceleration of the circulation of goods is an important task and a major economic policy of our state.

In the past year or so, since the decision of the Council of Ministers to eliminate checkpoints along roads, the circulation of goods among localities and regions country-wide has expanded and thus contributed considerably to balancing supply and demand, narrowing the differences in prices, and promptly serving production and life.

At present, faced with the demands of society for consumer goods, especially when Tet is nearing, the question of expanding the circulation of goods must be addressed even more urgently. However, some localities have not taken into account the overall benefits and have "again forbidden marketing," preventing products and goods from going out of districts and provinces, and dividing the market by the boundaries of territorial divisions. Such actions against regulations have caused all the more unnecessary tension and loopholes for dishonest traders and speculators to take advantage of and to disrupt market and prices.

In order to develop the economy and vigorously accelerate the circulation of goods, it is necessary to handle the relations of market and prices correctly. The market is an environment for public relations while the goods are the objects of circulation. It is necessary to control goods and money through purchasing and selling operations. Goods can be controlled if bought at the right prices, money can be controlled if goods are sold at the right prices. Trade cannot be coercive nor can it be imposed nor confined within a region. Controlling goods and money does not mean keeping goods in warehouses and money in vaults: it means controlling the process of circulating money and goods, rotating money quickly, and shipping goods from production sources to consumers via the shortest route and in the least time.

Besides taxes, all trade operations between peasants and the state must follow the principles of agreement and fair payment. The same principles should also be applied to handicrafts and artisan industry. Besides paying taxes and fulfilling the obligations of product sale contracts concluded with state economic organizations, producers of agriculture as well as handicrafts and artisan industry may circulate and sell their products in accordance with the state policies on goods circulation. In the state-owned domain, enterprises, as producers of goods, are authorized to circulate goods all the way through, according to state orders and economic contracts.

Another important question to be raised in vigorously accelerating the circulation of goods, is to organize the socialist trade system satisfactorily and shift all operations to business. The trade sector must honor and implement well the two tasks of supporting production and life, link business to service, and consider service as a goal and business as a means. We must eliminate the system of subsidization and establish the goods-money relationship. We must satisfactorily supply materials to agriculture so as to purchase agricultural products, and provide materials to industry so as to buy industrial goods. We can make a positive impact on the process of recycling production by satisfactorily implementing the two purchasing and selling tasks, and helping primary installations turn their goods into monetary assets and their money into production capital. At the same time, we must organize trade in a civilized and courteous manner; measure, weigh, and count correctly; and respect trade courtesy. Market management cannot obstruct circulation but it must concentrate on speculators, smugglers, and forgers who jack up and disrupt prices.

The economic management machinery, and production and circulation organizations have the duty to carry out properly the aforesaid measures to promote the circulation of goods, contribute to the gradual development of small-scale production into large-scale socialist production, and create premises and conditions for stabilizing market, prices, and the people's livelihood.

Pest Infestation of Rice Reported Nationwide
BK231508 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The Vegetation Protection Department recently issued a communique saying that harmful insects are spreading to ricefields in the northern provinces. Rice blast is spreading in almost all provinces, especially in Nghe Tinh and Binh Tri Thien. In the southern provinces, rice blast is developing in ricefields of the CN-2, MPL, Nong Nghiep 6A rice varieties and so forth. Provinces in Zone 5 experienced the same rice blast on several hundred hectares each.

It is predicted that rice blast will develop extensively on ricefields of the early 10th-month and main rice crops in northern provinces and cities in the days ahead. The density of brown and rice planthopper and rice caseworm will increase on ricefields. Black cut worm will damage corn, tobacco, and other subsidiary food crops. Rice blast and rice bug will continue spreading to ricefields in the southern provinces. Stem borers, cotton leaf-rollers, and rats will damage ricefields in localities.

The Vegetation Protection Department suggests that the northern provinces should accelerate the eradication of ground beetles by all available means, promptly spray insecticide to eliminate rice blast at its early stage, follow up the development of stem borer, brown planthopper, and rice caseworm in early 10th-month ricefields and black cut worms in vegetables and subsidiary food crops areas. The southern provinces should strive to eradicate rice blast and ground beetles in low-lying ricefields; and rats, rice caseworm, and stem borer in insect-stricken areas.

Agricultural Progress in Lam Dong Reported
BK190503 Hanoi VNA in English 1520 GMT
18 Feb 87

[Text] Hanoi, VNA Feb 18—Of the three provinces in Vietnam's central highlands, Lam Dong is the smallest in area but has the richest economic potentials. Here the natural wealth, climate, and geographical location afford possibilities for development in agriculture, industry, and tourism.

Self-sufficiency in food is the greatest achievement of Lam Dong since liberation in 1975. Under the U.S.-puppet rule, per-capita food availability was a mere 45 kg/year. In 1976 it rose to 150 kg/year, and by now is roughly 300 kg/year, the average for the country as a whole. This is due mainly to the development of wet rice and maize through intensive farming, crop multiplication, and application of scientific-technical progress.

Pedological and climatic conditions favor the development of a few key industrial crops like coffee, tea, and mulberry. From 1976 to 1985, the area under tea rose 2.4 times. At the time of liberation, it was only 5,000 hectares. By concentrating capital and manpower in all three economic sectors—state, collective, and family—Bao Loc District alone had 7,600 hectares under tea in 1986. In the space of 10 years, the whole province harvested a total of 145,000 tonnes of tea which were processed into 33,000 tonnes of dried tea. The area under coffee has grown 2.6 times. In 1986 alone, 4,000 more hectares were planted to this crop. On the basis of international cooperation agreements, there will be 15,000 more hectares of coffee plantations by 1990.

Lam Dong has 670,000 hectares of forest and forestland (120,000 hectares of pine and 250,000 hectares of bamboo). The forests are the home of elephants, tigers, wild buffaloes, wild oxen, deer, bears, rhinoceroses as well as many kinds of valuable medicinal plants. Wanton exploitation and the spraying of toxic chemicals in the days of U.S.-puppet rule wrought havoc upon the vegetation. After liberation, the province paid immediate attention to afforestation and planned exploitation, and struggled against forest fires, seeking to restore forest wealth step by step. Now Lam Dong is cooperating with the German Democratic Republic to carry out planning and planting of pine forests.

On the strength of abundant natural wealth and energy from the Da Nhim hydroelectric power station—the largest in the south so far—Lam Dong Province has sought to develop small-scale industry, handicrafts, and processing industries. In recent years, the value of industrial output rose by over four percent annually.

Briefs

GDR Lecturer Visits

Hanoi VNA February 21—Prof. Verner Pruskin of the Karl Marx Higher Party School of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED), has given lectures on the socio-economic strategy of the SED and the implementation of this strategy from 1971 to 1990 during his recent visit to Vietnam. Prof. Verner Pruskin called at the Propaganda and Training Commission and the Economic Commission of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and made a lecture tour of Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and the Mekong River Delta Province of Ben Tre. Tran Trong Tan, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and head of its Propaganda and Training Commission warmly received the G.D.R. guest and informed him of the implementation of the resolutions of the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam. [Text] *[Hanoi VNA in English 0703 GMT 21 Feb 88 BK]*

Fiji

Opposition Spokesman on Chiefs Council

BK210935 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] The political opposition in Fiji says proposals to restructure the country's Great Council of Chiefs should be viewed with caution. The opposition spokesman on Fijian affairs, Mr (Ju-eli Kalu), commenting on a proposal last week by the minister for Fijian affairs, Colonel Vataliai Navunisaravi, for the new two-tiered Great Council, said that the climate of uncertainty which had existed since the coalition government's overthrow last year was not a good background for changes to the Great Council.

Taukei Movement Issues Policy Declaration

BK210830 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] The pro-Melanesian Taukei Movement in Fiji has issued a policy statement which its spokesman, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, says was aimed partly at improving the group's image. AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS quotes Ratu Inoke as saying that one of the aims of the 15-point policy declaration was to replace Taukei's militant image with one of respectability.

The two main objectives of the policy are to seek a new constitution with the changes favored by the movement and to support efforts by the interim government to stabilize the economy.

In the declaration of beliefs, the movement says that Fiji should be governed under Christian principles, and the indigenous Fijian people's interests must be of prime importance at all times.

Seeks To Change 'Militant' Image

BK230710 Hong Kong AFP in English 0638 GMT
23 Feb 88

[Text] Suva, Fiji, Feb 23 (AFP)—Fiji's hardline ethnic Taukei movement wants to replace its militant image with one of respectability, Information Minister Ratu Inoke Kubuabola said here Tuesday.

"Our problem is that we have been branded a militant group that does not care about people's lives," Mr Inoke said. "We want to correct this."

In a series of policies approved Sunday, the Taukei Movement backed efforts of the government of military leader Sitiveni Rabuka to stabilize an economy badly affected by two military coups Mr Rabuka led last year.

"We favor Brigadier Sitiveni Rabuka's and the government's efforts to put the economy back on the right track," Mr Inoke said.

But the question of indigenous Fijian control of the government is still a sticking point, he said.

"Our only bone of contention with (Prime Minister) Ratu Sir Kamistse Mara's interim administration is that we believe the Constitution should be changed immediately to meet the aspirations of the coups," he said.

The movement urged the drafting of a new constitution to give indigenous Fijians parliamentary supremacy. The movement's Great Council of Chiefs agreed to such a constitution at its meeting in Suva last July.

The new policies, approved at a Taukei executive committee meeting Sunday, included support for a multicultural, just and humane society, and the protection of individual freedoms.

The new policies also supported a government based on parliamentary democracy and Christian principles with guaranteed Fijian leadership and a priority for native Fijians.

The movement also said political stability would depend on the tolerance and understanding of all the peoples of Fiji.

Conflict between native fijians and ethnic Indians—who have a 48 percent majority—peaked last year when the Fiji-dominated military staged two coups to seize control of the government.

Under the 1970 Constitution abrogated by the coups, Fijians and Indians had equal representation in parliament.

The coups swept President Timoci Bavadra and his Fiji-Indian coalition government from power.

New Zealand

Government Plans To Sell State Enterprises

BK240816 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The New Zealand Government is reported to be preparing to sell nine state-owned enterprises including those which run the country's telephone and postal services. AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS says the state-owned enterprises minister, Mr Richard Prebble, denies that any definite plan to sell the enterprises has been made.

However AAP says Mr Prebble has confirmed that he and the finance minister, Mr Roger Douglas, wrote to the heads of the enterprises last week asking for timetables to show when they could be put on the market.

NOTES

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